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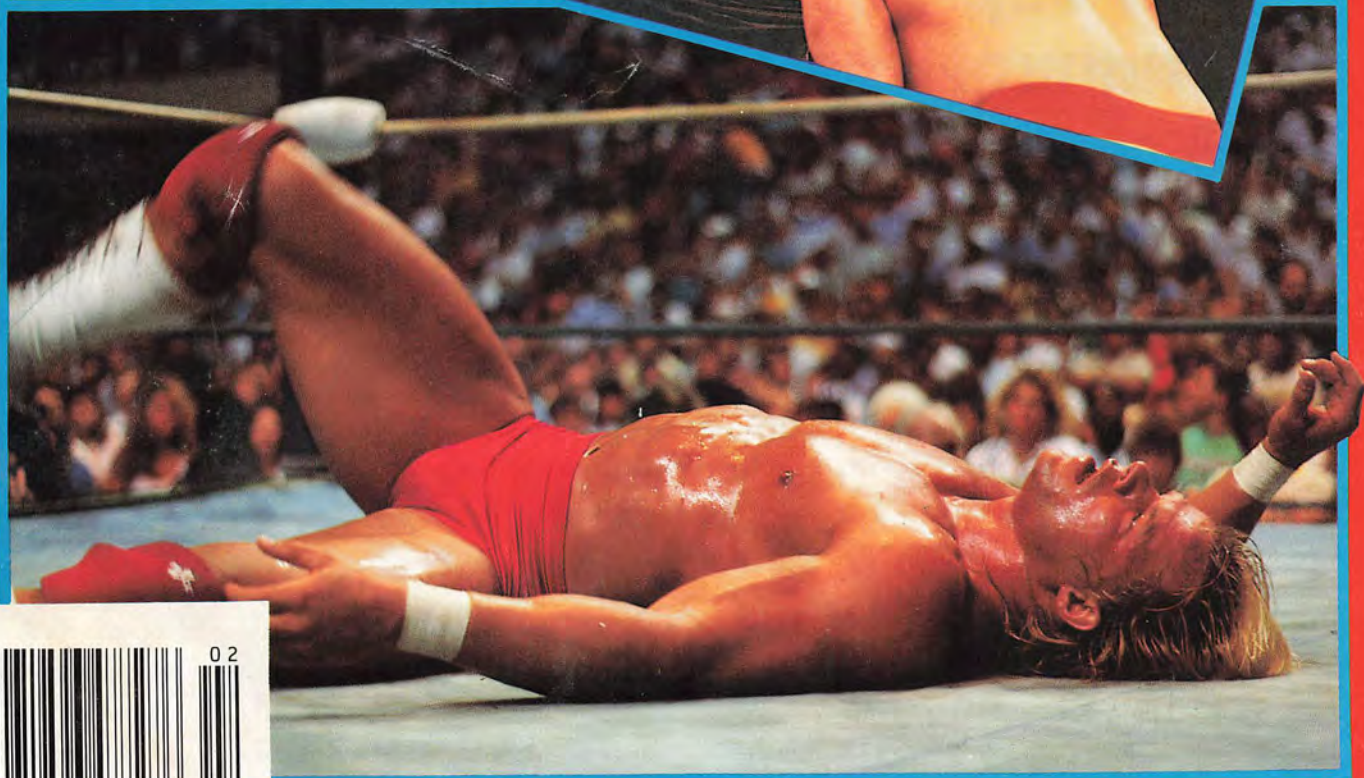
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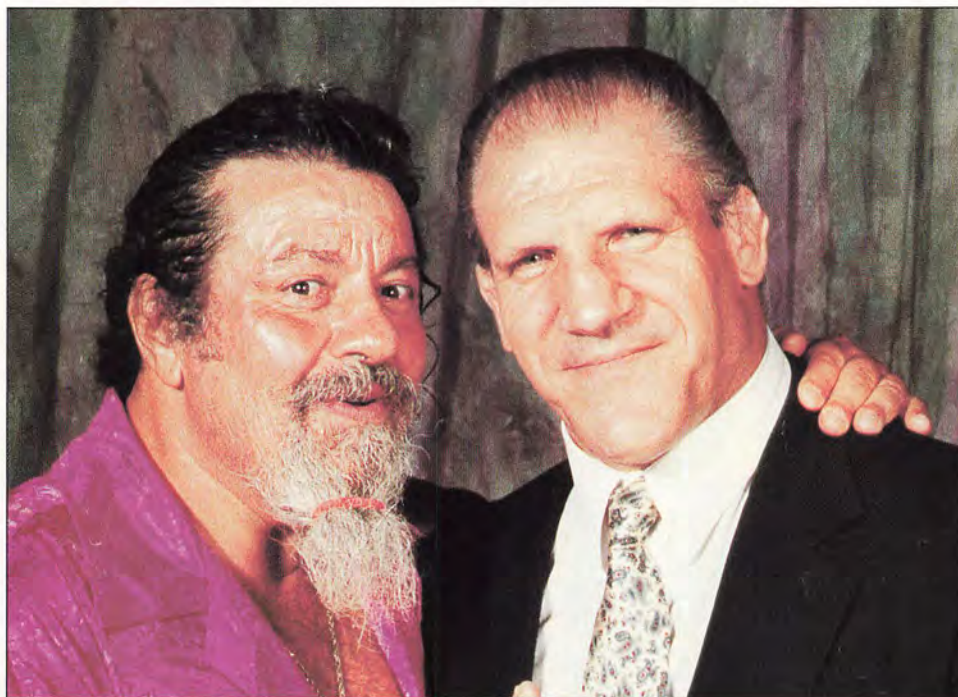
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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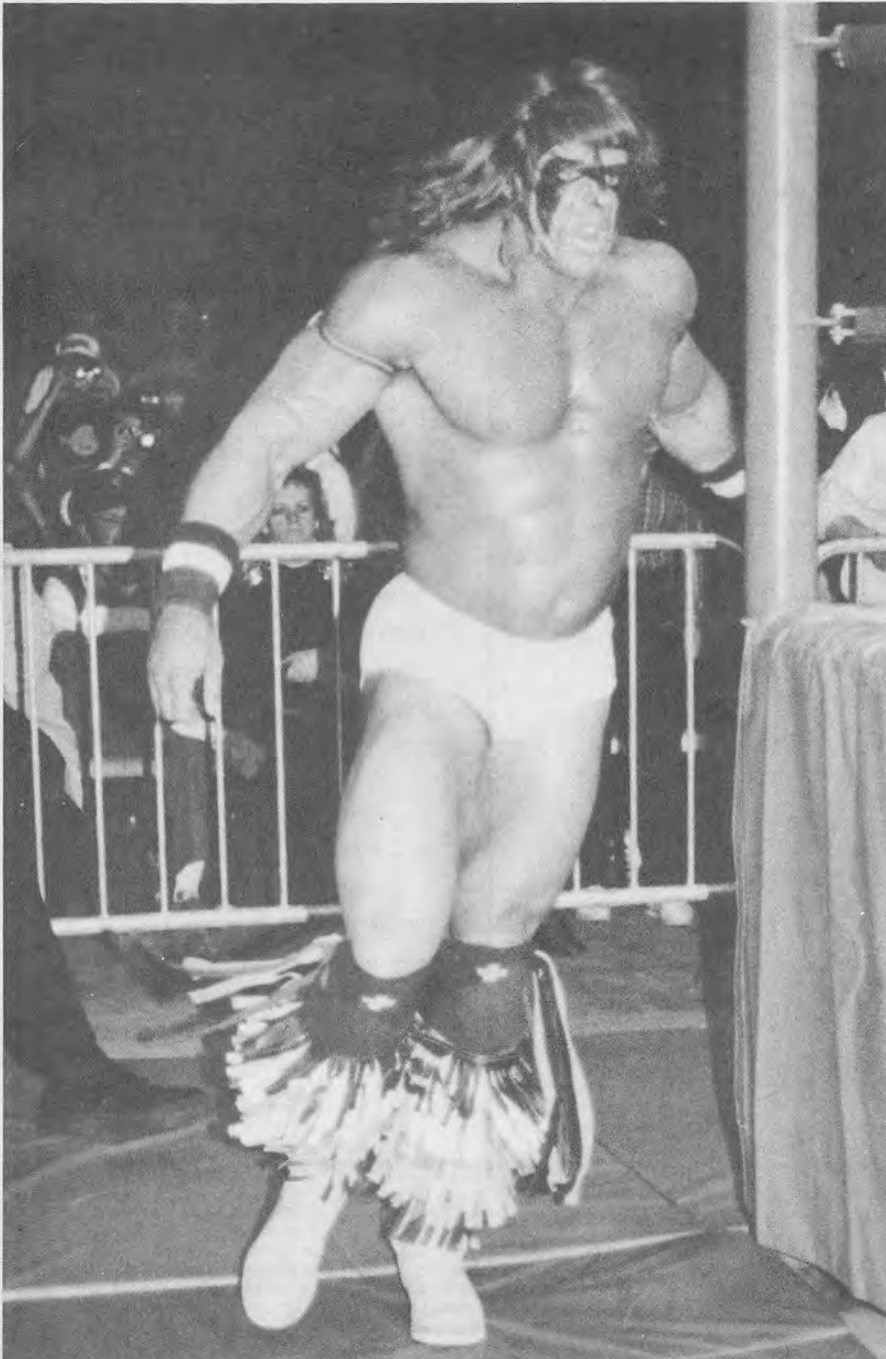
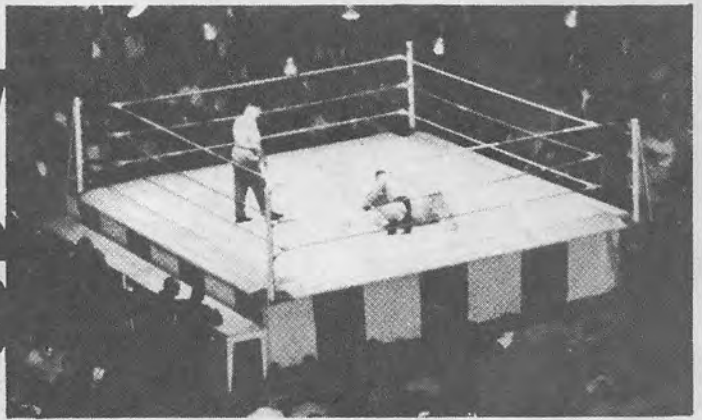
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SINCERELY YOURS

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The Ultimate Warrior's sudden departure from the WWF saddened reader Marilyn Straub, but was a cause for celebration for reader Bob Raynor.

WHITHER WARRIOR?

I was saddened when I read "Names Makin' News" in the December 1991 issue and found out that The Ultimate Warrior had left the WWF.

I was also furious after the Warrior was not included in the postmatch SummerSlam celebration with Hulk Hogan and Sid Justice. Sid had no right to be in the ring with Hogan. I think Justice is taking the Warrior's place, and I don't like it one bit. I would not blame the Warrior if decided to compete someplace else.

Warrior, if you read this, I am one of your adult fans and I was mad after SummerSlam, too. You are better than Sid will ever be. This is one fan who will be on your side whatever you do.

MARILYN STRAUB
Toledo, OH

Exit, Ultimate Warrior. Enter, wrestlers who *wrestle*?

BOB RAYNOR
Salisbury, MD

LOD DOES IT

SummerSlam '91 truly proved to be a historic event, as it stated in the December 1991 issue ("A Night To Remember: SummerSlam Provides Heat For The Cold Months Ahead"). However, the highlight of the evening was The Legion of Doom's victory over The Nasty Boys.

This victory put Animal and Hawk atop the wrestling world as the greatest tag team today. By defeating Jerry Sags and Brian Knobs, not only did the LOD claim the WWF World tag



The Legion of Doom's victory over The Nasty Boys for the WWF World tag team title confirms them as the greatest tag duo in the world today, in reader Victor Kegl's view.

team title, but they became the first team in history to win World tag team titles in three different federations (AWA, NWA, and WWF).

My congratulations to you, LOD, and may your reign be long and glorious.

VICTOR A. KEGLER
Jersey City, NJ

SMALL CAN BE BIG

A few months ago, it was announced by WCW that they were about to reinstate the light heavyweight title and that they'd hold a tournament to fill the vacancy. I think this is a great idea.

Wrestling today is a sport of big men, and the smaller guys don't get the recognition they deserve. Personally, I think the smaller guys provide

more action and better competition, which is good for the sport all the way around. It is especially good for WCW, since they've had an influx of talent in the area.

You'd think the WWF would follow suit, since they have so much talent. But this proves is that WCW is the better organization.

BRUCE D. GRAY
Orlando, FL

FLIPPANT FLAIR

Ric Flair thinks he's the *real* champion of the world? Baloney!

Hulk Hogan is the real champion, and Flair is an imitation of the real thing. Flair walks around boasting about his belt. I think the only purpose of that belt is to hold his pants up.

When I heard that Flair was coming

to the WWF, I thought it was dumb. Now, I'm *glad* he's in the WWF, because now he's in more trouble than he could ever imagine. He's in trouble against Roddy Piper and Hogan.

Hold on to that belt, Flair, because it's the only thing that will protect you.

ANDREW JENKINS
Milton, Ontario

After seven stultifying years of posing, toys, and cartoon shows, it's time for this sport to grow up. Ric Flair, the thinking man's champion, is going to expose Hulk Hogan for the buffoon he is and has always been.

This is so exciting that I *might* even go back to the arenas to see him do it!

TIM SOHLMYER
Boston

A "ROWDY" COWARD?

After watching two recent installments of the "Funeral Parlor" on WWF TV, I'm forced to utter words I never thought I'd say: Roddy Piper is a coward.

When Bobby Heenan was in the parlor, he continuously insulted Piper and spoke the praises of Ric Flair. Piper left his broadcast chair, grabbed Heenan, spit on the manager and Flair's belt, and said he was going to spit on Flair when he saw him. The funniest line was when Piper said that he "scared Flair."

Two weeks later, Heenan was again in the "Parlor," but this time with Flair by his side. Flair continually insulted Piper, but this time Piper had nothing to say. He just sat in his chair and took it.

I guess we saw who scared whom. I suppose it was just easier for Piper to attack a manager. Roddy should stick to broadcasting. Obviously, it's getting too tough for him out there.

BRIAN YEANDLE
Kissimmee, FL

FOUNDATION FOLLIES

I laughed until I cried when I read Alexandra York's comments in the December 1991 issue ("Alexandra York: 'If You Want To Be In My Founda-
(Continued on page 52)

SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Gene Anderson died in October while attending a law-enforcement class in Huntersville, North Carolina, and there is a touch of irony here. It is Gene and Ole Anderson's blueprint for breaking the laws of pro wrestling that is the foundation of most rulebreaking tag teams today.

It was the Andersons who first gave people the notion that one referee was not enough for a match involving four wrestlers. The Andersons understood the referees' limitations and exploited them. Not that that hadn't been done before, it just was never done with such aplomb. The Andersons were rulebreakers, true, but they made rulebreaking a science. And every rulebreaking team that has gone on to greatness after them, whether they realize it or not, owes a debt of gratitude to these men.

Growing up in New York, I was cut off from the world of professional wrestling south of Washington, D.C., and west of Pittsburgh. I knew from what I read that the Andersons must have been a great team, because they held the NWA World tag team championship twice. And I knew that even though they were hated, they must have been respected, because the fans had voted them Tag Team of the Year in 1975 and 1977. But I never did experience The Minnesota Wrecking Crew firsthand.

"They were something," said Paul Ellering, who admits to have studied the Andersons on film for three solid months before unleashing The Road Warriors on the world in 1983. "They were intimidating without being physically imposing. They were respected without being respectable."

In The Wrestler, we selected the Andersons as the number-two team of the past 25 years. We gave the number-one spot to The Legion of Doom. By Hawk and Animal's standards, we erred. "In all the time I've known Hawk and Animal," Ellering said, "I'd never known them to be embarrassed."

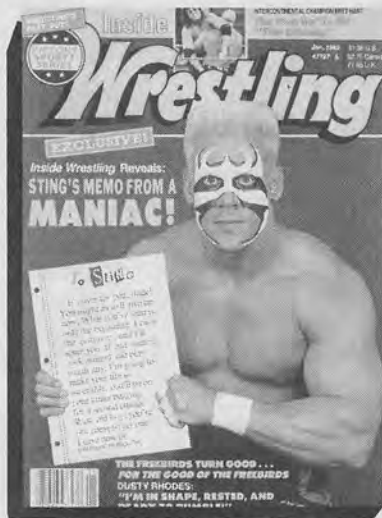
They understand the debt they owe the Andersons.

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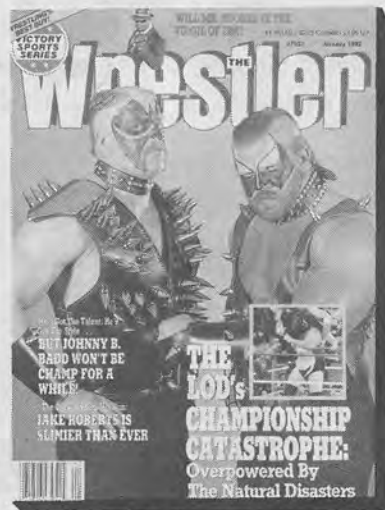
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NAMES MAKI

ALTHOUGH HE INSISTS that winning the WCW World title has never been a high priority, **Rick Steiner** has emerged as a strong threat to **Lex Luger's** championship. Actually, the "Dogfaced Gremlin" became a contender in just one night following a shouting match and unscheduled bout against the "Total Package" on October 22 in Columbus, Georgia.

During the television taping, Steiner, while being interviewed by broadcaster **Tony Schiavone**, was asked if he had any interest in wrestling for the World title. Steiner responded by saying all he was concerned about was "holding the tag team belts with my brother, **Scotty**." However, Steiner then went on to say that he could beat



RICK STEINER

Luger anytime he wanted to.

"Heck, I beat Lex before!" laughed Steiner. "I used to beat him in the locker room all the time!"

After that comment, Luger came out to the interview area, trailed by manager **Harley Race** and bodyguard **Mr. Hughes**. After trading heated insults, Luger challenged Steiner to come



MR. HUGHES

down to the ring, where a referee was waiting. Surprisingly, when Steiner entered the ring, the referee called for the bell, and an impromptu non-title match began.

Luger should never have made the challenge. Although the champ dominated the match for a few minutes, a belly-to-belly suplex made Luger the pinfall victim—and Steiner delivered a clothesline to Hughes and a suplex to Race for good measure!

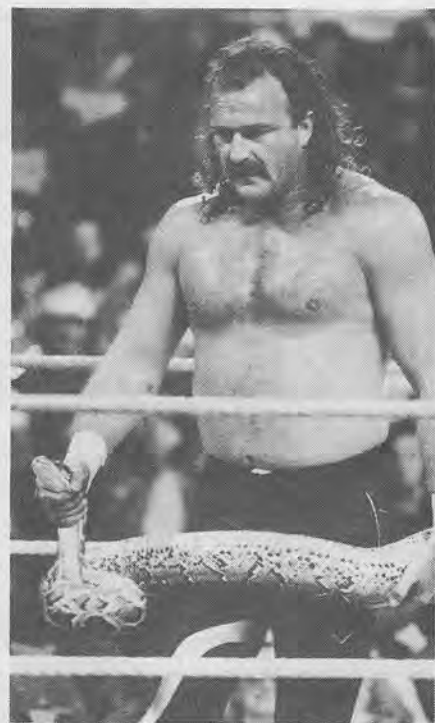
"Hey, maybe I *can* be World champion!" said a joyous Steiner after the bout. "I don't think anybody's ever given Luger a beating like that one before. If he's got any guts, Luger will put the belt on the line next time. But I'll tell you one thing, though: If he's gonna have Hughes and Race with him, I'm going to demand a stipulation that allows Scotty to be at ringside for me."

Unlike in previous months when he dodged **Ron Simmons**, Luger has

gone to WCW officials *requesting* a rematch with Steiner.

"That big ape can use any stipulations he wants," said an angry Luger, still stung by his embarrassing pinfall loss. "Let him bring Scott or anybody to ringside. Just the thought of that moron being WCW World champion is a complete travesty."

October 22 was a day that will long be remembered in the WWF as well. In Fort Wayne, Indiana, the insidious **Jake Roberts** prompted his pet cobra to bite the arm of **Randy Savage** after taunting the "Macho Man" into



JAKE ROBERTS

the ring from his broadcast position. Although the poisonous toxins were quickly cleaned from Savage's system, the attack has made many fans call for Roberts' immediate suspension—or for Savage's immediate reinstatement.

Actually, Savage may not need to be "reinstated" after all. Following a left bicep injury to **Sid Justice**, Savage

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

was asked by WWF promoters to substitute for Justice at several arenas in matches against Roberts. This is the second time since Savage lost his "retirement match" to **Ultimate Warrior** at WrestleMania VII that the WWF has begged him to wrestle as a last-minute



RANDY SAVAGE

substitute. It's ludicrous that WWF President **Jack Tunney** can use Savage when he needs him and still maintain the suspension. I think Tunney will quietly lift the suspension, saving himself the embarrassment of a public announcement.

Fans and officials in the Global Wrestling Federation were shocked when **Tug Taylor**, a rulebreaker throughout his career, admitted that he was the father of popular young star **Chaz**. The announcement came one week after Taylor rescued Chaz and **Terry Garvin** from an attack by **Lightning Kid** and **Tom** and **Mike Davis** at the Dallas Sportatorium.

"Nothing is more important than my boy," said an emotional Taylor. "I was one of the guys that '**Boss**' Max An-

drews was hiring to wipe people out in Global, but when I saw those goons go after my kid, I knew what type of people I was dealing with. And from now on, wherever he goes, I'm going to be right behind him!"

Also in Global, former USWA stars **Dan Davis** and **Brickhouse Brown** were scheduled to make their GWF debuts.

Warlord has hired **Harvey Whippleman** as his manager, replacing **Slick**, who left the WWF... **The Motor City Madman**, last seen in the WWC, has opted to leave the sport. The big man is now busy selling securities in Florida... Two name changes in the Pacific Northwest: **Jeff Warner** is once again **J.W. Storm**, while **Jimmy Jack Funk** is again **Jesse Barr**—and each man is vowing to drive the other from the PNW!



J.W. STORM

Other former friends that are now hated enemies are USWA Southern champion **Eric Embry** and Texas champion **Dr. Tom Prichard**. Embry attacked Prichard after his partner was pinned during a six-man tag team match during October. Now, Prichard claims he's the man who can finally drive Embry out of Memphis—and the fans love it!

"I can't believe the way the folks around here are supporting me," said Prichard after beating Embry by dis-

qualification in a "Texas shootout" bout on October 28 in Memphis. "It's like a whole new career having people cheering for me. And Embry's going to have to find a whole new career after I get done mashing his fat face!"

I'm glad Embry and Prichard have split apart, but I'm worried about **The Rockers**. **Marty Jannetty** and **Shawn Michaels** have been arguing after many of their recent matches... Former WWF World champion **Bob Backlund** was scheduled to face a



BOB BACKLUND

boxer in a multi-sports card on December 22 at the Tokyo Dome against an as-yet unnamed opponent. Also on that card, former WBC heavyweight boxing champion **Trevor Berbick** will meet young Japanese star **Nobuhiko Takata**. "I hope my opponent is either a current or past champion," said Backlund, who's still in great shape.

My sympathies to the families of **Gene Anderson** and **Wally Dusek**. Anderson, a former two-time holder of the NWA World tag team title with brother **Ole** died of a heart attack on October 31 in Huntersville, North Carolina, while attending a law-enforcement training session for the sheriff's department. He was 58. Dusek was part of the famed Dusek family that included brothers **Emil** and **Rudy**, and later served as an NWA referee. He was 82. □

EXPECTATIONS ARE strange things. You get yourself psyched up to experience one thing, then you're thrown a curve and you wind up with something completely different. Like when you walk into a movie theater, sucked in by the commercials and the coming attractions, and the flick you just paid seven bucks for turns out to be the turkey of the year.

Here are a few things in wrestling that defied my expectations:

● Ric Flair vs. Roddy Piper. I recently went to Madison Square Garden and



Roddy Piper vs. Ric Flair

witnessed the rebirth of one of the greatest feuds of all-time. What a bore. Flair in the WWF is like a shark in an aquarium: Removed from his natural habitat, he is reduced to a curiosity for the amusement of gawking tourists. The "Nature Boy" probably passed his prime back around the formation of The Four Horsemen; why else would he have had to surround himself with thugs in an effort to retain his WCW World title? So take Flair, who is a few years over the hump, put him in the ring with Piper, who hasn't wrestled on a full-time basis since WrestleMania III, and what do you get? A match that absolutely does not live up to its billing. In this case, I wish they'd left the memories of 1981 wildness and mayhem alone.



Johnny B. Badd

top-rope flying bodypress up against any other finishing maneuver in the sport. Badd gives opponents the impression that he's all style, which many times leads them to underestimate his actual talent. In his young career, he's been able to take full advantage of that situation.

● Ultimate Warrior. I would've expected he'd return to the ring by now. Not necessarily in the WWF, but *somewhere*. This is a man who ranked second only to Hulk

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

Hogan in terms of mainstream popularity and (probably most importantly to him) marketability. Every time you saw Hogan's face on a piece of WWF merchandise, there was Warrior right next to him. Maybe Warrior doesn't like the nightly punishment of the mat sport, but I'm sure he likes the big paydays that his merchandising brought him: One reliable report holds that he received in the neighborhood of \$20,000 for signing autographs at a toy store for just a couple of hours! I certainly would have expected Warrior to return to the

ring and keep his money-making face in the public eye. And if the split between him and the WWF is irreconcilable, then I definitely would have expected another federation to snap him up by now.



Sting vs. Abdullah the Butcher

● The Undertaker and The Chamber of Horrors. Okay, one can make an argument that WCW's Chamber of Horrors match at Halloween Havoc wasn't all *that* bad. After all, it was on a pay-per-view card (the general public—meaning a few million impressionable children—weren't subjected to it), and it was more or less in the spirit of the holiday. But there's no excuse at all for The Undertaker. This man's hideous and repulsive embracement of death is undoubtedly confusing and/or disturbing to millions of young kids. I can't explain why parents nationwide haven't flooded the WWF with letters demanding that Undertaker be banned from all television broadcasts; I would have expected them to do so by now. After all, if a letter-writing campaign can bring *Star Trek* back from the brink of cancellation nearly 25 years ago and turn it into a cultural icon, it can certainly put Undertaker in his place: six feet under.

● "On The Road." From the name of this column, you'd expect that I'd actually write about my experiences on the road . . .



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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

BOBBY HEENAN ISN'T right too often. Let's face it, the rotund big mouth isn't exactly prone to insightful analysis. And his value on the WWF's *Prime Time Wrestling* programs is more for his entertainment value than his commentary.

But once in a while Heenan gets a good idea. Too often, the idea is disguised by Heenan's buffoonery and his college sweatshirts (is this *Prime Time Wrestling* or *Too Close For Comfort*?), but this time I'd have to say that Heenan is 100 percent correct.

Ric Flair is the *real* world champion.

He might not be the real WWF World champion. Nor does he hold the WCW World title. But there's little doubt that when listing the top wrestlers in the world, Flair is right on top, just where he has been for most of the past 10 years.

When he left WCW over a contract dispute, Flair was still World champion. It was not his idea to leave; the dispute simply became unreconcilable. Lex Luger never won the WCW World title from Flair; he won it by defeating Barry Windham, who never was and never will be World champion.

The point here is that Heenan is merely trying to let everyone know that the greatest wrestler of the past decade has arrived in the WWF. Many people thought he was already there. Many people thought the greatest wrestler was Hulk Hogan.

Flair is about to prove them wrong and Heenan very right.

"I've wrestled everyone from Hogan to Flair to all of them in between, and Flair's the best I ever faced," said Paul Orndorff.

(Continued on page 56)

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Mat fans will experience action like never before! Get your ringside seat for all the spills and thrills as Ted DiBiase takes on Magnum T.A., The Shepherders & Jack Victory meet The Fantastics & Terry Taylor; and Brett Sawyer battles Gustav Mendoza.

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

HALLOWEEN APPROACHES as I write, but since you'll be sitting down for Thanksgiving dinner before you get to read this, I thought it appropriate to fill the column with spooks and ghouls and turkeys and pumpkins—of which, in the world of professional wrestling, there is an endless supply.

SPOOKS

Who was the WCW visionary who dreamed up the Chamber of Horrors match featured at Halloween Havoc? The recurring vision of Abdullah the Butcher strapped into an electric chair will undoubtedly deposit more than one fan on the psychiatrist's couch. After this match, I felt like I needed a drug test, since only under the influence of something strong and illegal could I have possibly seen the things I think I saw. Were there really a half-dozen or more individuals masquerading as white-faced pallbearers waiting at ringside for Abdullah to fry? Where were they going to take him? Abdullah eats live chickens, has spilled more blood in combat than the U.S. Army, and for recreation pulls the wings off parakeets—he is the Sudanese ambassador to the Great Beyond. What could a few hundred thou-



Ellner thought he was hallucinating when he saw Abdullah the Butcher electrocuted at Halloween Havoc.

sand volts do to him? I went to a WCW card expecting a wrestling match and received a WWF simulation instead.

GHOULS

I love Roddy. In fact, I dressed like him for Halloween. But in an attempt to prolong his fading ring career, the noble Scot threatens to undermine the match we have all waited years to see. Piper is using everything left in his tank to destroy Ric Flair. If Flair is to challenge Hulk Hogan, he will need every physical and strategic resource at his disposal. A feud against Piper will almost certainly deplete him. Piper clearly ain't what he used to be, but the little that's left is enough to exhaust most anyone. As much as I'd like



Ric Flair-Roddy Piper is okay, but it's not Flair-Hulk Hogan, says Ellner.

to see Roddy Piper pull a Jimmy Connors-like comeback—hell, I'd prefer Piper be the one to topple Hogan—it isn't likely to happen. Rather than suck Flair dry and make him another easy victim for Hogan, Piper should return to the broadcast booth and lend his unique expertise—he's feuded violently with both men—to describe the one match we're all dying to see.

TURKEYS

No recession here; our favorite category is stuffed full for this holiday season. For starters, how
(Continued on page 58)

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

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Actual questions

Who did Rick Martel defeat to win the AWA World title (1984)?

- 1) Jumbo Tsuruta
- 2) Ivan Koloff
- 3) Stan Hansen
- 4) Larry Zbyszko

Which of these wrestlers was not in *Bodyslam*?

- 1) Roddy Piper
- 2) Barbarian
- 3) Warlord

True or False: Ted DiBiase's parents were both professional wrestlers.

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following wrestlers did not attend West Texas State University?

- 1) Tito Santana
- 2) Wahoo McDaniel
- 3) Barry Windham
- 4) Dusty Rhodes

What 21-year-old was the youngest man ever to hold the NWA World title?

- 1) Tommy Rich
- 2) Kerry Von Erich
- 3) Lou Thesz
- 4) Dory Funk Jr.

How did you do?

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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



know. A lot of kids think they can waltz in on their daddy's coattails. Not in this business. You have to make your mark yourself. I think Jesse has what it takes."

All Jesse had then was five minutes before he had to leave, and I asked him if he felt any pressure from his father.

"My father has always been very supportive of everything I've done," he said. "I've never felt obliged to please him by becoming a pro wrestler. It's in our



Jesse Barr was a fine up-and-coming young wrestler (above, vs. Bob Backlund), then decided to go under a mask and compete as Jimmy Jack Funk (left).

MORE THAN A decade ago (can it be?), when I was first starting out in this business, I was interviewing veteran wrestler Sandy Barr in Portland, Oregon, when into the dressing room popped his young son, Jesse.

"Hey, hey, m'boy," Sandy proudly said. "Meet Liz Hunter, a big-time journalist from New York City. This here is my son, Jesse. Where are you coming from, Jesse? Being fitted for a world cham-

pionship belt?"

Sandy winked at us both and grabbed Jesse into playful headlock. Jesse was on his way to meet a date (lucky girl, I thought at the time, surveying his muscled body and engaging smile) and, like any young fella, needed a small advance.

"Jesse is a good kid," Sandy said as he forked over a tenspot. "He's serious about the ring, not like the kids of other wrestlers I

genes. I come to it as naturally as a cow gives milk."

With that, he left to make his date. Sandy turned to me and said, "I've been very careful with Jesse. I never discouraged him from the ring, but I don't think I've pushed him too hard. But I'd be lying if I said I didn't want him to make a name for himself."

Well, Sandy, were you in luck.

(Continued on page 60)

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

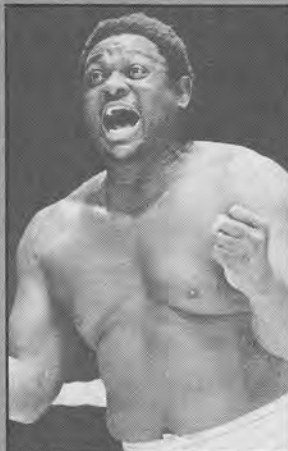
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



SLICK

The flamboyant former manager of Power & Glory and The Warlord departed the WWF in late-October and is enjoying a period of rest and relaxation at his home in Ft. Worth, Texas. Slick says he has no intention of retiring and ad-

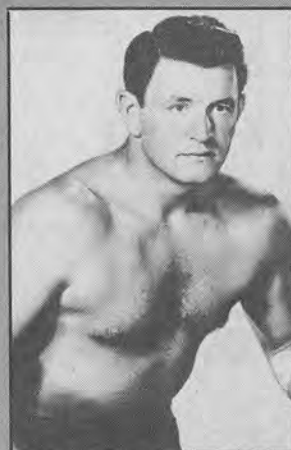
mits that he's still keeping his eye on several young prospects. The devious and sometimes brilliant manager has not ruled out making a comeback in a new federation during the coming months.



RUFUS R. JONES

The popular grappler long known as "Freight Train" now limits his ring appearances to two or three times each year. He spends the majority of his time at Rufus R. Jones At Ringside, his bar and grill in Kansas City, Kansas. "I would

be honored to have all the fans to come on in and see me," said the always amiable Jones. "My staff will fix you up some great food, and we can talk about the good ol' days of wrestling."



SONNY MYERS

This former top wrestler and referee, who officiated throughout the country, is now retired and living with his family in St. Joseph, Missouri. Myers trains young wrestlers, and has worked with stars such as UWF contender Steve Ray.

Myers recently underwent knee surgery, which stemmed from several injuries he suffered during his career. "I'll always keep my ties to wrestling," said Myers, who is recuperating nicely.



KAMALA

Although he's been missing from major U.S. wrestling federations for years, the "Ugandan Giant" continues to keep a very busy schedule. The 6'7", 360-pound savage recently completed a wrestling tour of Germany and Austria, and will do the same in Japan during the coming months. "I hope someone can calm this man down," said veteran Austrian star Otto Wanz. "He was never more bloodthirsty than he was when he competed here."

INSIDE WRESTLING

187

CAPSULE PROFILE

THE MOUNTIE was known for years as simply Jacques Rougeau (*"The image change was a great career move"*) ... A native of Montreal, Quebec (*"The most beautiful city in the most beautiful country in the world"*) ... A product of the famous Rougeau family, considered by many to be the greatest Canadian wrestling clan ever ... His uncle, John, and father, Jacques Sr., were top stars of the '50s and '60s (*"A long line of truly legendary wrestlers"*) ... Older brothers Raymond and Phillip preceded Jacques into the sport ... Made his debut in 1977 in Georgia (*"Still had a lot to learn in those days"*) ... Made his way back up to Canada, where he formed a tag team with his brother Raymond ... It was in Canada where Jacques developed his outstanding dropkick, still considered one of the sport's finest ... By 1987, the Rougeau brothers had become top contenders to the WWF World tag team title (*"A great team bogged down by listening to the idiot fans"*) ... Engaged in classic bouts against Demolition and The Hart Foundation ... The previously scientific Rougeaus shocked the sport by hiring Jimmy Hart as their manager in 1988 (*"After too long going nowhere, superstardom was imminent"*) ... Duo

THE MOUNTIE

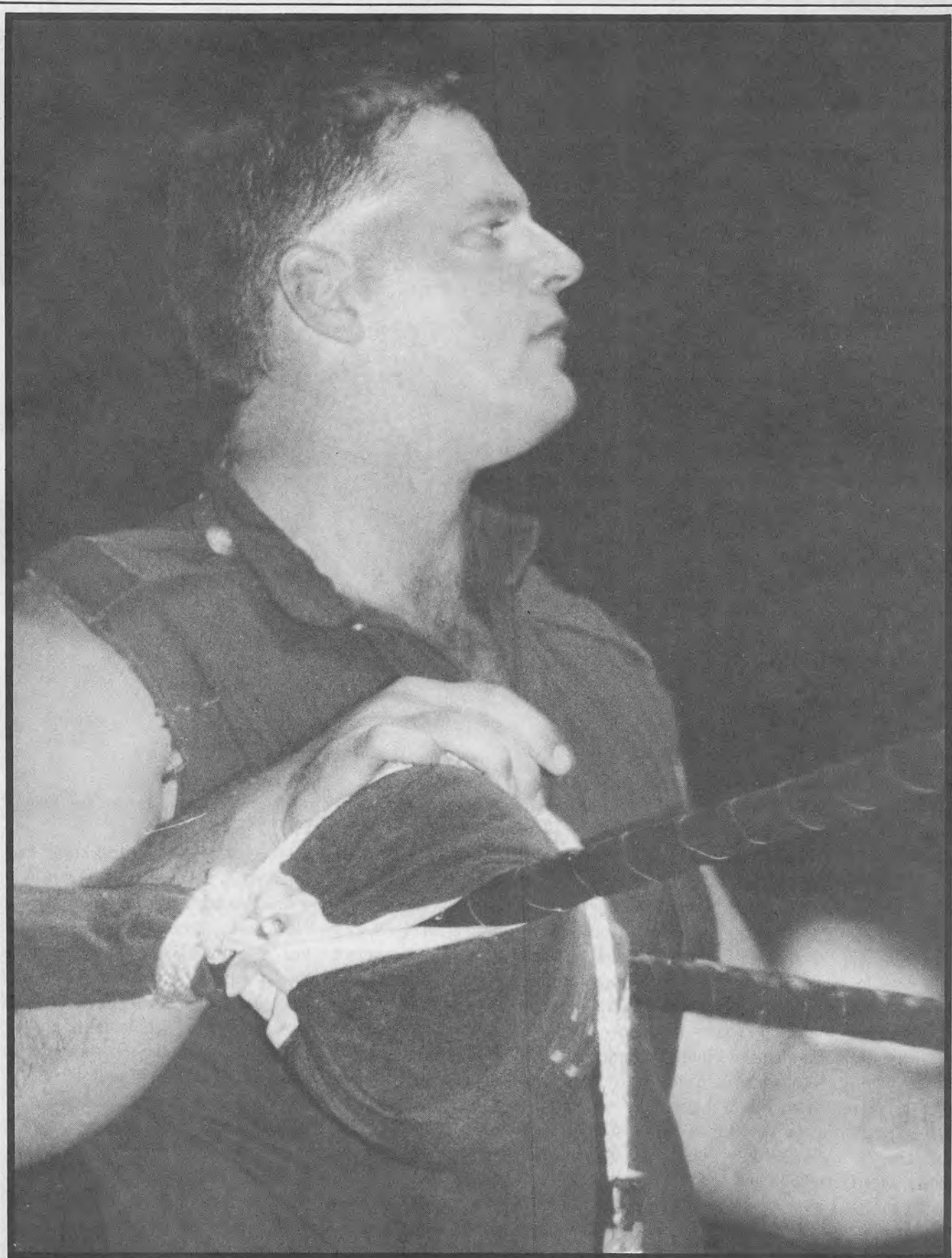


Koko B. Ware paws at his bloody lip after taking a forearm in the mouth from The Mountie. The stalking Mountie won't give him much time to recover.

angered fans by claiming that they "loved the U.S.A." while using vile tactics ... Team announced their retirement from wrestling in 1989, but Jacques continued to make frequent appearances in Canada and in the World Wrestling Council (*"Got to stay busy to stay effective"*) ... Jacques returned to the WWF as The Mountie in late-1990 ... Again employed Hart as his manager, but was more devious and brutal than ever (*"The Mountie always gets his man!"*) ... Claims he's a former member of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police, but the *real* Mounties have banned Rougeau from competing with his uniform in Canada ... Began carrying a mega-volt policeman's shock stick to the ring with him

(*"The greatest deterrent to crime ever invented"*) ... Engaged Big Bossman in a brutal feud, and spent a night in a New York jailhouse as a result of his loss at SummerSlam '91 (*"Bossman's victory was a tainted one. The biased referee never should have counted that pinfall"*) ... Rebounded from that loss by becoming the top contender to Bret Hart's Intercontinental title (*"That man is a disgrace to Canada and all Canadians"*) ... Brutalized Hart in a prematch attack when Hart threw water on the champion, which intensified the effect of the shock stick (*"Zap! Hart will never be the same!"*) ... Now rising in the Most Hated rankings (*"And that's exactly the way it oughta be!"*). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



THE MOUNTIE

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ST. PAUL, MN By Jason Biagi



STING
vs.
ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER



Sting jumped Abdullah before the bell and knocked him from the ring. Abdullah got the advantage when he took out a pencil and jabbed Sting in the throat with it. After several grueling minutes, Sting took charge, slammed the 360-pound Butcher, and beat him bloody with a bamboo stick. The action moved outside the ring again, where Sting rammed Abdullah's head into a table. The referee counted out both men.

OTHER BOUTS: Ron Simmons & Barry Windham beat Lex Luger & Mr. Hughes ... WCW TV champion Steve Austin drew with Dustin Rhodes ... Brian Pillman pinned Johnny B. Badd ... Van Hammer beat Terrence Taylor ... Tom Zenk defeated Oz ... Michael Hayes beat Firebreaker Chip ... The Enforcers beat Rick Steiner & Bill Kazmaier.

BOSTON, MA By Nelson Carvalho



SID JUSTICE
vs.
THE UNDERTAKER



This special "coffin match" began with the two giants staring at each other in the middle of the ring. Justice dominated most of the match, and even after Undertaker blasted Sid with a tombstone piledriver, Sid looked unstoppable. The powerful Justice went on to lock Undertaker in the coffin and win the bout.

OTHER BOUTS: Rick Steamboat pinned Skinner ... The Beverly Brothers defeated The Bushwhackers ... Kerry Von Erich beat Pete Doherty ... WWF World tag team champions The Legion of Doom defeated The Nasty Boys ... Ted DiBiase beat Virgil by countout ... Intercontinental champion Bret Hart pinned Berzerker ... Irwin R. Schyster beat Hacksaw Duggan by disqualification.

LANDOVER, MD By Ray Ney



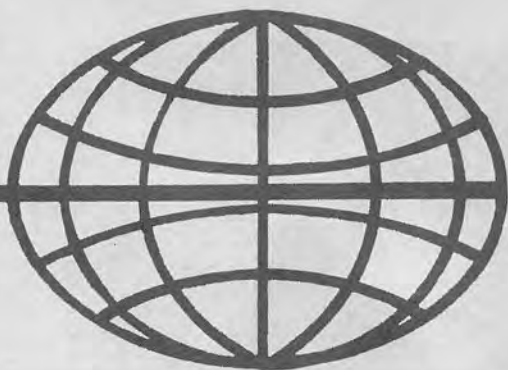
RIC FLAIR
vs.
RODDY PIPER



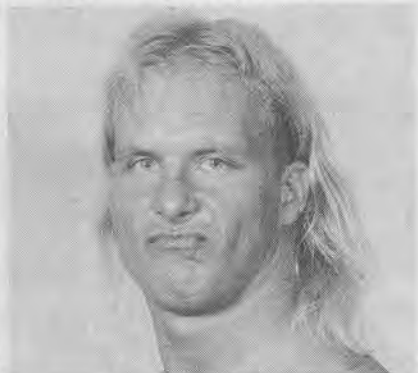
Flair put Piper in a figure-four leglock, but was forced to break the hold when the referee caught him holding the ropes for leverage. Flair whipped Piper into the referee, knocking the official out. After a second ref came out, Flair hit Piper with a chair, but only got a two-count. The first ref got back to his feet and stopped Roddy from hitting Flair with the chair. After blasting Piper with a shoulderblock, Flair covered him for the pin, with his feet on the ropes.

OTHER BOUTS: Berzerker beat Greg Valentine ... Jim Neidhart pinned Hercules ... The Beverly Brothers beat The Bushwhackers ... Irwin R. Schyster pinned Big Bossman ... The Undertaker beat Hacksaw Duggan ... WWF World tag team champions The Legion of Doom beat The Natural Disasters by disqualification.

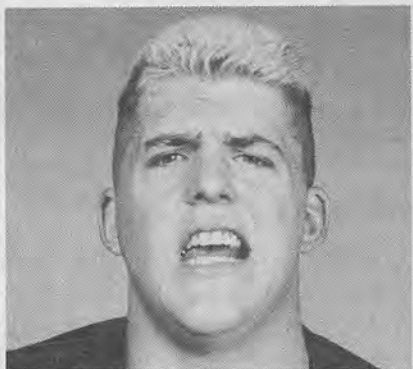
WRESTLING CAPITALS



NORFOLK, VA By Eddie Cheslock



**STEVE AUSTIN
vs.
DUSTIN RHODES**



Dustin was determined to capture the WCW TV title from the arrogant Austin. Both men are very technically skilled and they demonstrated that in this encounter. The younger Rhodes had a counter for everything Austin tried, but he had a bit more trouble fending off some of Austin's more underhanded tactics. At several points during the bout, Dustin appeared to have Austin pinned, but the TV champ kicked out. The contest ended in a time-limit draw.

OTHER BOUTS: WCW U.S. tag team champions The Patriots defeated The Freebirds ... Richard Morton beat Tracey Smothers ... Big Josh defeated Johnny B. Badd ... Van Hammer beat Cactus Jack by disqualification ... P.N. News defeated Axl Rotten ... El Gigante & Rick Steiner beat The Enforcers.

PORTLAND, OR By Robert Thomson



**CRUSH
vs.
BILLY JACK HAYNES**



The previous week, Crush had won the PNW championship from Rip Oliver, so Oliver's friend Haynes was extremely eager to avenge his cohort. This turned out to be not so much a wrestling match, but an all-out brawl. Crush battered Haynes with vicious right hands and crunching forearm blows. Haynes retaliated with equally forceful moves. Naturally, the combatants ended up going at it outside the ring, and they were counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: Bart Sawyer defeated Al Madril by disqualification ... J.W. Storm beat Jesse Barr ... Mike Winner drew with John Rambo ... Steve Doll & Mike Miller defeated PNW tag team champions The Bruise Brothers by disqualification ... The Grappler beat Moondog Moretti.

CAGUAS, PR By Hector Alicia



**CARLOS COLON
vs.
DICK MURDOCH**



While waiting for a match with Dino Bravo to get back the held-up WWC Universal title, Colon accepted the challenge of Murdoch, the wily Texan who has been making a lot of trouble in the WWC lately. Colon tried to keep the action clean, but that was nearly impossible, thanks to "Tricky Dick." But as the bout progressed, it became clear that Colon was the better wrestler (and even the better brawler) on this night. Colon scored the pin, winning a key bout.

OTHER BOUTS: Sweet Brown Sugar & Super Medic III beat El Profe & Goliath ... Giant Warrior pinned Jack Hammer ... Galan Mendoza & Randy Rhodes wrestled to a double-countout against Ricky Santana & Ray Gonzalez ... TNT defeated Fidel Sierra ... Miguel Perez Jr. beat Hurricane Castillo Jr. by disqualification.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

DALLAS, TX: Joe Pedicino, a gifted broadcaster, can now be considered a gifted reporter, too. Welcome to the trade, Joe. The man can put away the fettucini after a match and he can also put away a great story. I'm talking, of course, about the whole Max Andrews situation. You remember Max. He's the guy who saved World Class wrestling from Gen. Skandor Akbar and spawned the birth of the United States Wrestling Alliance. Well, you'd think that Andrews is a guy on our side, but Pedicino showed that's far from the case. As Pedicino uncovered, Andrews had been parading for months behind the disguise of The Boss, who ruled the evil Global Wrestling Federation clique known as The Cartel. Pedicino uncovered this ruse and deserves to be congratulated. It was a tremendous job of journalism, wrestling's Watergate, and Pedicino, although he is employed by the federation, was not afraid to take on his boss. Of course, the aftershocks of this incident will be felt for a long time. Several wrestlers put their faith in Andrews, and now I have to wonder if any Global commissioner will ever be trusted. Sad. It seems to me that the administration of this sport needs to undergo a total overhaul. Thanks to Pedicino, we can start in Dallas and work our way north.

LANDOVER, MD: Is it really 1991? I'm sitting in the Capital Centre with thousands of screaming, delirious, unknowing fans, and something tells me this must be the early-1980s and the NWA. Down in the ring, that's Roddy Piper and Ric Flair, and if somebody told me this would happen again in the WWF in 1991, I would've had his head examined. Well, I'll take it. Maybe this is the wrong time and the wrong place and the wrong federation for such a match, but I'll take it. In the home of nonsense wrestling, two of the most no-nonsense wrestlers that ever lived are thrilling fans. There's Flair hitting Piper with a chair, but then Flair brings back the good ol' days with a figure-four leglock. Of course, he's grabbing a rope for leverage—same old Flair. But Piper, never one to quit, soon seizes the advantage. Yeah, you can't teach



RODDY PIPER VS. RIC FLAIR

an old dog new tricks, so Piper grabs a chair, then tosses Flair over the ropes. There's a lot of pent-up anger here. Finally, Flair shoulderblocks Piper to the mat and pins him with his feet on the ropes. Piper, enraged, grabs a chair and goes after Flair and both referees. This was really something.

NEW YORK, NY: Big mistake. Went to the movies today and didn't like what I saw. Worse yet, went to one of those Times Square multitheatres with sticky floors and 27-inch screens. It was a bad way to spend the day, and it became worse when Hulk Hogan appeared on the screen in *Suburban Commando*. I knew there was a reason I didn't want to see this. Hogan is a great brawler, a marginal all-around wrestler, and a lousy actor. He and Mr. T should go on the road together. It would be the nightmare version of Martin and Lewis. Anyway, there I'm sitting, the lady next to me is blowing cigar smoke in my face, there's a kid screaming in the front row and a couple—I think a man and a woman—making out like

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

nobody's business, when the words that signal my departure from the theater are spoken by this little electronic voice that the Hogan character mistakenly dropped: "I've fallen and I can't get up!" Nothing like original humor in an original movie. I'm not really sure why Hogan insists on acting and I'm not even sure he's acting after seeing this bomb. It can't be the money. He must have more pride than that. Well, maybe he doesn't. Here's the thing about Hogan: One day he's a role model, the next day he



HULK HOGAN IN *SUBURBAN COMMANDO*

isn't. One day he's out to help everyone, the next day he's got his hand out to everyone. Very strange. I think we'll always wonder who the real Hogan is. As for me, I'm wondering if that lady smoking the cigar was an ex-girlfriend. Could be.

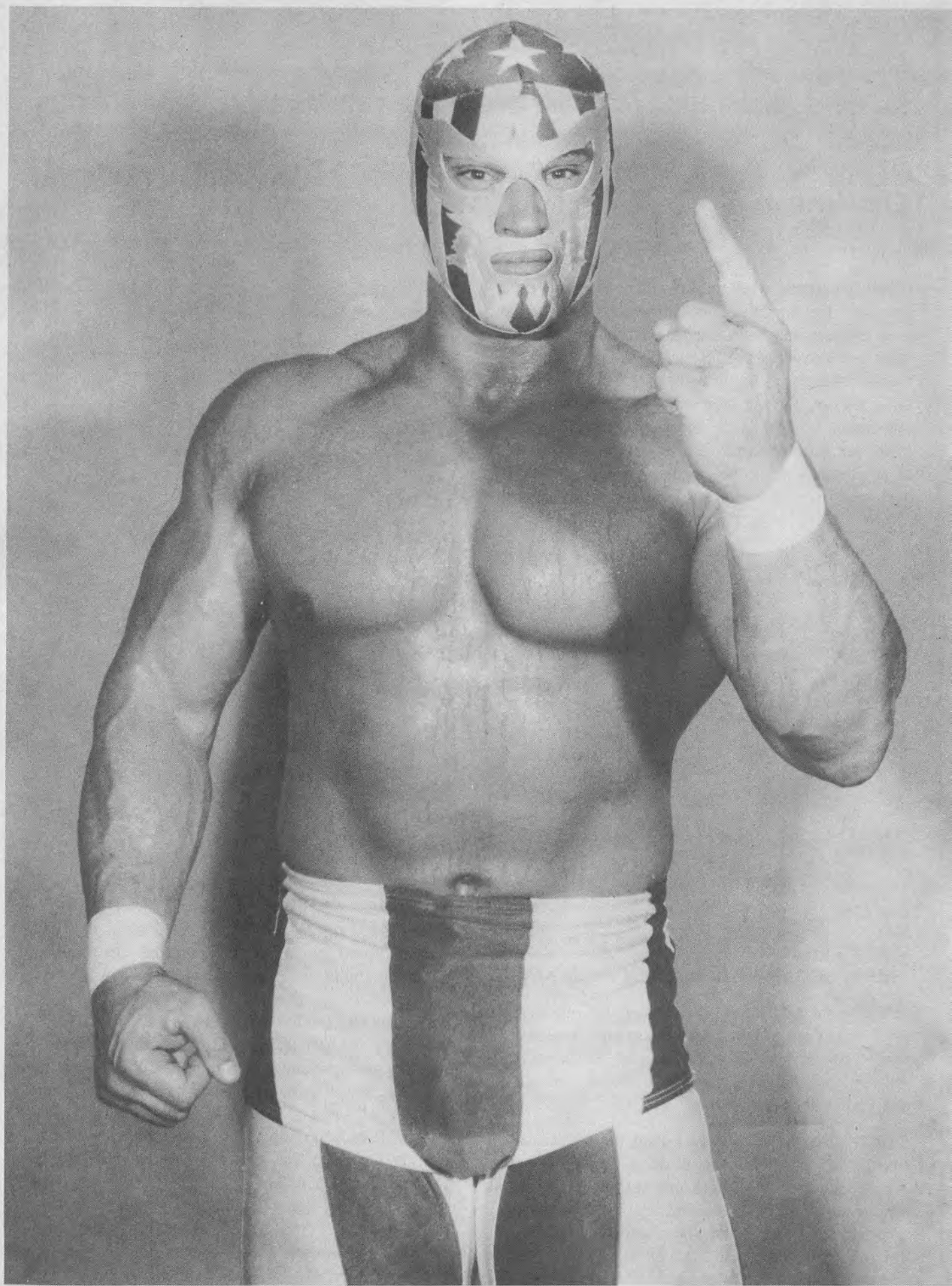
PORTLAND, OR: Jimmy Jack Funk has been unmasked and I don't care. Now he will wrestle under his original name, Jesse Barr. I'm losing track with Funk. What's his real name, what's his fake name, why is he still wrestling? The fans seem to like him, though, which I guess counts for something, but doesn't it look as if Funk is always trying to revitalize his career simply by changing his name,



JESSE BARR

putting masks on and taking them off? Seems that way. Well, he's a no-nonsense wrestler and that does count for something. At least he doesn't make bad movies.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN: Game six of the World Series. Minnesota vs. Atlanta. They're calling this the greatest World Series ever, and who can argue? Who, except for ol' Brock, who has seen more than most people. Have to root for Minnesota. They have a player named Greg Gagne. He pronounces his name GAG-nee, and of course he's not the son of the former AWA champion, but he did prompt my old buddy, Jack Buck, to err in announcing his name as "Verne Gagne" during a CBS telecast. I liked that. As for Atlanta, rooting for them means rooting for Ted Turner's fiancée, Hanoi Jane Fonda. No way! □



THE PATRIOT

THE TRUE BOSS OF GLOBAL



The more success The Patriot achieved against Global rulebreakers like One Man Gang, the more determined "The Boss" was to eliminate him.

By Bob Smith

WHEN JOE PEDICINO walked to the interview platform at the Dallas Sportatorium, tape recorder in hand, the fans realized right away that something was wrong. The sullen look on the announcer's face revealed the pain that was going through his heart.

A week earlier, Pedicino said on the air that he had a recording that would offer conclusive evidence as to the identity of the man the federation's top rulebreakers referred to only as "The Boss." It was The Boss who was secretly funding many of the vicious assaults that marred Global's brief U.S. history.

When it was revealed that interim North American Commissioner Max Andrews was The Boss—the secret money man who was hiring rulebreakers to cripple Global's most popular wrestlers—fans and wrestlers alike wondered how the fledgling organization could get through the crisis. The Patriot knew exactly what to do



Patriot isn't the least bit afraid of Gang (above and below), but he is afraid that Max Andrews' actions have done irreparable harm to Global's reputation.

When Max Andrews, Global's interim North American commissioner, rushed to the platform, unusually anxious to get the recorder away from Pedicino, the fans were expecting the worst.

That's exactly what they got when the announcer turned on the recorder, which emitted the sound of Andrews in a conversation with rulebreaker Scott Anthony. Several times, Anthony referred to Andrews as "The Boss."

Finally, after weeks of investigation, the truth was revealed. Andrews was indeed The Boss, the man who was paying The Cartel—Anthony, Rip Rogers, Makhan Singh, and Cactus Jack—to sneak-attack and cripple Global fan favorites.

For the first time in the sport's history, a top federation official had been involved in corrupting his federation. Such a revelation had the potential to bring down the rapidly advancing GWF just as it was starting to make its mark on the U.S. wrestling scene.



As Pedicino argued with Andrews in front of the stunned crowd, GWF North American champion The Patriot watched the incident on a monitor in the locker room. When Andrews ran from the set like a scared animal, an angry Patriot wanted to chase him down. Only the combined forces of Terry Daniels, Gary Young, and Chaz were able to hold Patriot back.

"How *dare* this man soil the federation I've been trying to build!" Patriot screamed to reporters as he returned to his locker. "I've been working hard to advance both the Global *and* the North American title in the minds of the fans, but the guy running the whole show has been using GWF funds to pay off the same men who've been trying to destroy me! I feel sick . . . I . . . I don't want to talk about this. Just leave me alone."

Patriot had a right to be upset. In less than six months, the masked man had emerged as one of the sport's top young stars—and one of its most inspirational as well. Many wrestlers hold up the U.S. flag with pride, but how many actually *give back* a title—as Patriot did when he learned that Al Perez' foot was on the ropes when he pinned him in the final round of the North American tournament?

"When Patriot returned his belt to the officials, I was stunned," said Global commentator Scott Hudson. "I hadn't seen that kind of integrity since the days of Verne Gagne and Lou Thesz. Patriot is such a class competitor he really shouldn't worry too much about what Andrews has done. Patriot has done too much good, no matter how much Andrews has affected everything else around here."

Hudson's words accurately summed up the situation in Global since the Andrews scandal was revealed. While beleaguered GWF officials wonder who should replace Andrews in his administrative capacity, Patriot has stepped up his schedule of title defenses. From Tugboat Taylor to Stan Lane to Axis the Demolisher (formerly of Demolition), Patriot has taken on the best competitors he can find—and he's defeated them all with clean pinfalls.

"He's the best young wrestler I've seen in 10 years," said Axis, who rarely compliments *anyone*, let
(Continued on page 62)

WRESTLING'S BEST

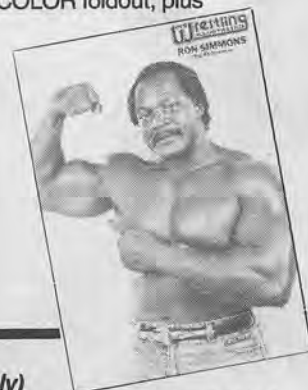
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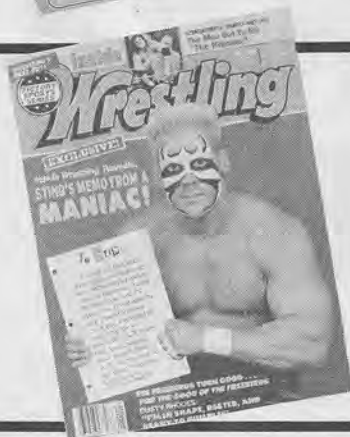
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ENFORCERS' ANATOMY LESSON TAKING APART THE WCW PIECE BY PIECE

By Andy Rodriguez

LARRY ZBYSZKO AND Arn Anderson refer to it privately as "putting an end to the nonsense." With nearly three decades of ring experience between them, the current WCW World tag team champions decided to stop abiding by the "hypo-critical codes of conduct" that have dominated much of their ring careers.

While it might be surprising to hear the words "codes of conduct" coming from the mouths of either Zbyszko or Anderson, these guys are serious.

"Hey," said Zbyszko, "we haven't always followed the rulebook, but at least we were aware of it. Now we have other things on our minds."

"Wrestlers like Larry and me have always been vilified for our behavior," Anderson said. "The simple truth is we are no different from anyone else in the ring. Everyone is trying to gain

the advantage. We are not animals. We've forgotten more ring tricks and bits of strategy than 99 percent of anyone wrestling today will ever know. If I wanted I could beat any amateur wrestler in the country wrestling completely clean.

"We're the real thing. But we're tired of the bull that dominates this sport. It's dog eat dog out there, always has been, always will. We just decided not to take our rabies shots anymore."

Larry Zbyszko elaborates further. "I don't care anymore about anything anyone thinks about me. People think I've been crazy? They ain't seen nothing yet. I've been holding back all these years. I've been *good*. Both Arn and I agree there's no point in restraining ourselves anymore. The so-called good guys have free license to do what

they want in the ring. They get away with murder. We just want the same benefits they have."

Consequently, The Enforcers' opponent list over the past few months reads more like an emergency room manifest:

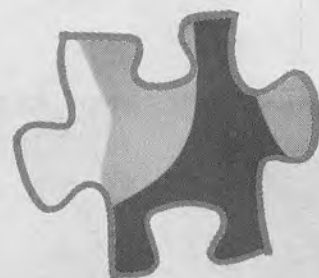
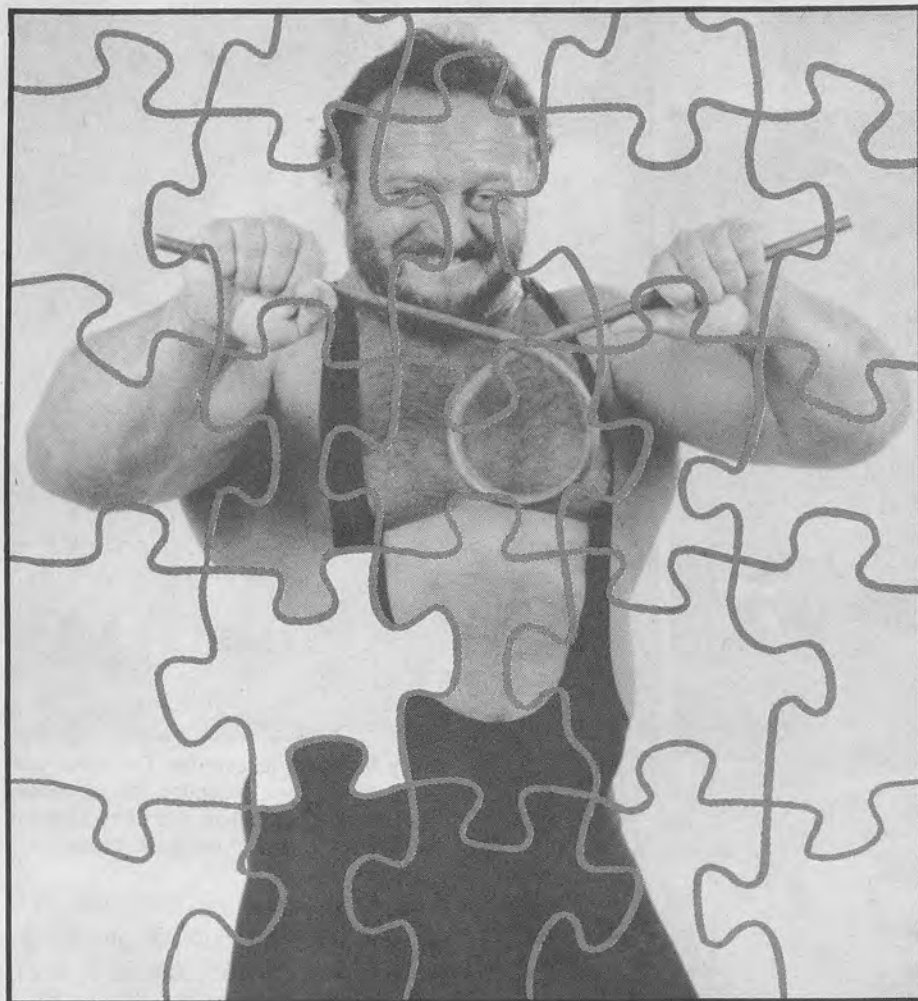
Bill Kazmaier, *broken ribs*, the result of Anderson and Zbyszko ramming a steel barbell plate into his chest.

Barry Windham, *broken wrist in four places*, the result of Anderson and Zbyszko closing a car door on his hand.

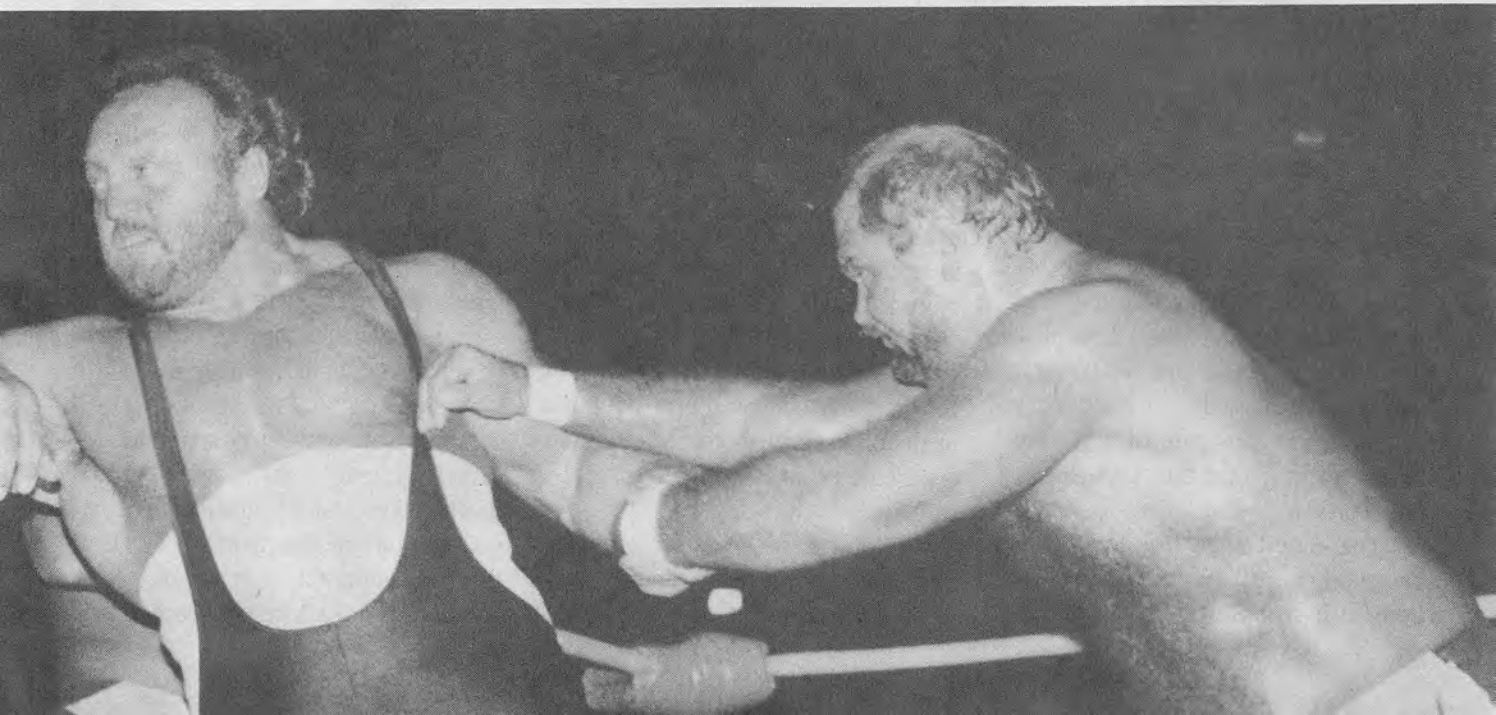
Tracy Smothers, *separated shoulder*, the result of a vicious extended arm bar performed illegally by Anderson and Zbyszko.

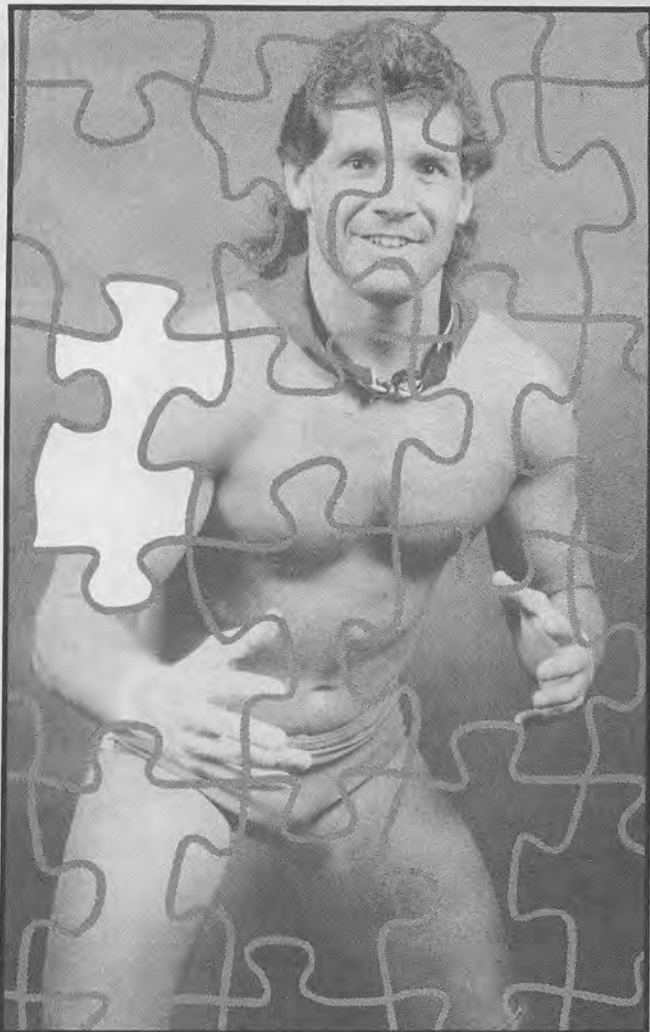
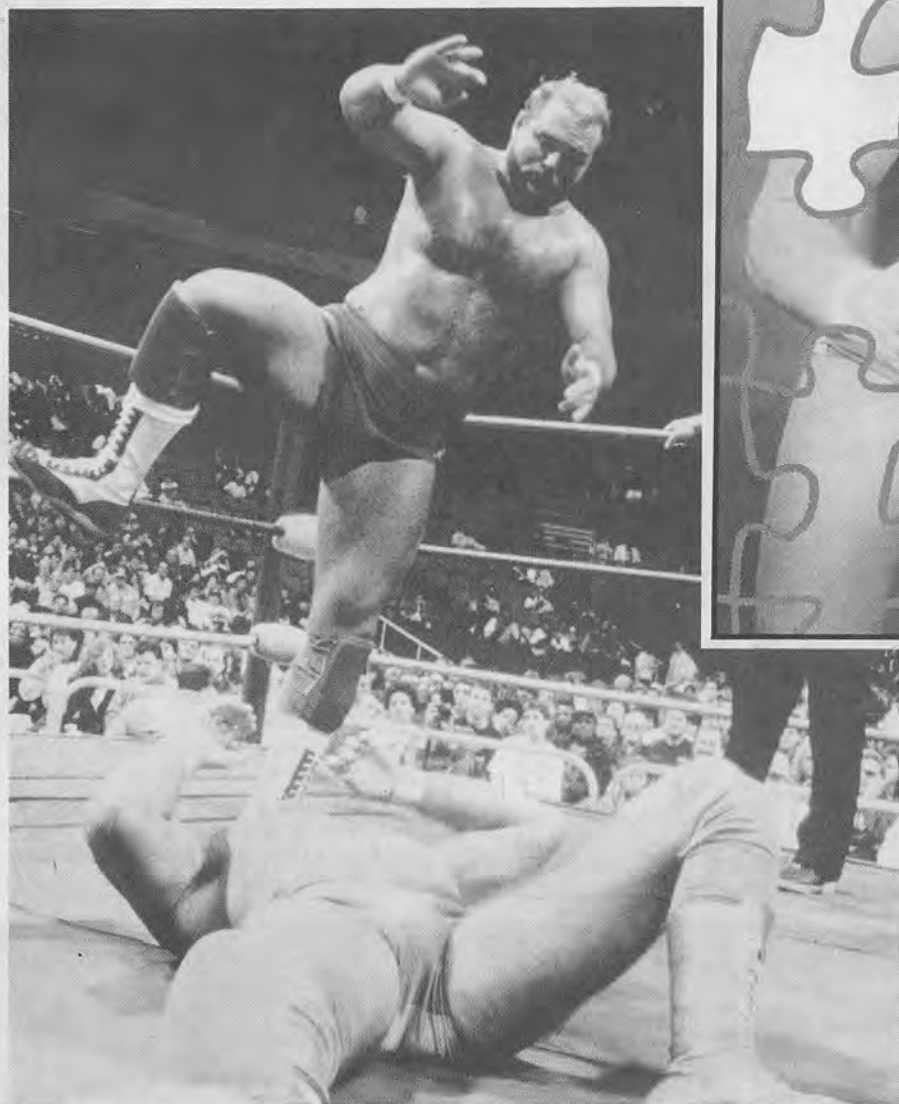
The Enforcers' obsession with breaking body parts have made them as much an enemy of insurance companies as it has of their WCW oppo-

The Enforcers have given new meaning to the term “handicap match,” as an alarming number of their opponents find themselves in stitches and casts



“World’s Strongest Man” Bill Kazmaier (left) was weakened considerably when The Enforcers rammed a steel barbell plate into his ribs at Clash of the Champions XVI. Kaz insisted on wrestling later that evening (below), but he was overpowered easily, and The Enforcers won the WCW World tag team title.





Tracy Smothers (above) felt The Enforcers' wrath when they separated his shoulder. Both Arn Anderson (left) and Larry Zbyszko actually are proud of being so brutal.

nents. But the new levels of brutality, despite the outrage it's provoked, have proven to be chillingly effective.

"I won't step into the ring with either of them," said one WCW grappler, who requested to remain nameless. "Injuries are part of this sport, but for them it's the only part. It's just not worth it."

"The easiest thing to do is injure your opponent," said U.S. champ Sting. "It means you no longer care

about winning. You're just interested in sending a guy to the hospital. If that attitude caught on, there would be no sport anymore."

The controversy stirred by The Enforcers is an endless source of amusement for the two, both of whom have experienced fan support during their careers.

"If you cut the heads off wrestlers," Anderson says, "fans wouldn't know who to cheer for. Good or bad is a

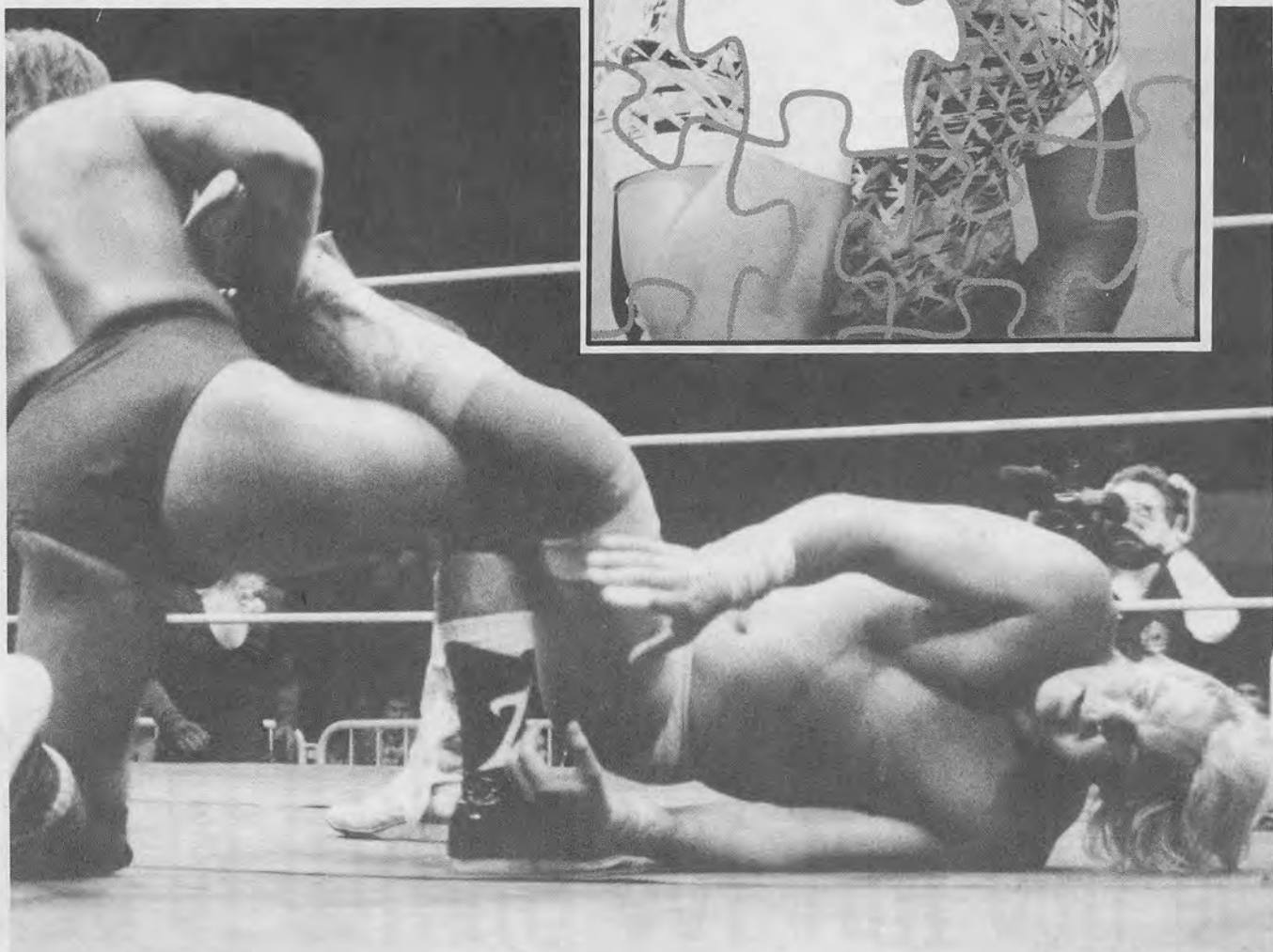
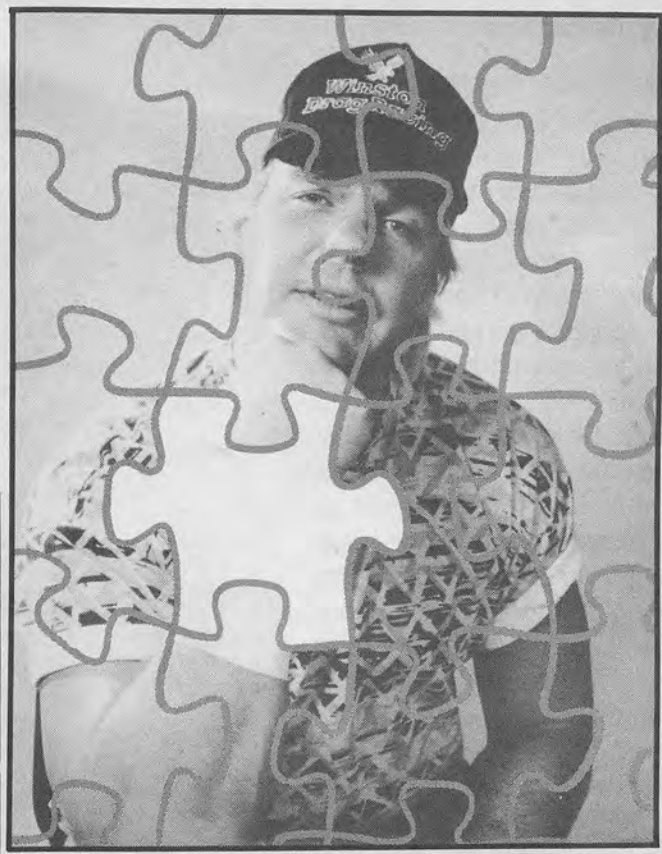
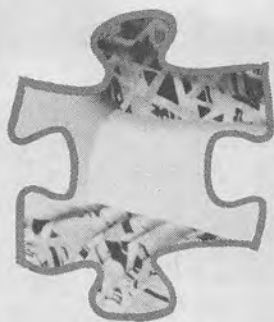
perception you can't possibly let interfere with your style. If anyone of those guys—Kazmaier, Smothers, especially Windham—had the opportunity, they would have done the same thing to us.

"They just don't have the guts to execute like Larry and I do. That's why they are in the hospital and we are wearing title belts."

Fortunately, not every wrestler in WCW is intimidated by the "new-look" Enforcers. Many are backing their outrage with action; many have vowed to do unto them as they have done unto others.

"Anderson and Zbyszko shoot go casket-shopping right now," warned Scott Steiner. "They are the two biggest cowards in this sport. They claim they are no different from any other wrestler? Wrestlers respect each other.

The Enforcers put Barry Windham (far right) out of action when they broke his wrist by slamming it in a car door. In past matches, they've worked extensively on his leg (below). Anderson and Zbyszko promise more brutality as their title reign continues.



We go into that ring and try to win, but we draw the line at purposely, recklessly trying to injure each other.

"We have families to support and we have only a few good years in the ring. Injuries are going to happen anyway. I know that better than anyone. But animals like Zbyszko and Anderson and Abdullah the Butcher need to be put out of the sport. They have no respect."

Zbyszko is not impressed, nor par-

ticularly fearful of Scott Steiner. "I've gotten threats from the best of them," he said. "Hell, the great Bruno Sammartino vowed to put my head on a platter for years. Scott Steiner is a one-armed flash-in-the-pan. Words issued in threat are cheap and useless. You'll notice Arn and I don't talk much, but are actions speak volumes.

"If any of these cowards have something to say, let them express themselves in the ring. We will respond the

same way we did to Windham, Kazmaier, and Smothers. In fact, nothing would give The Enforcers more pleasure than to end the careers of the Steiners. They are too damned cocky for our tastes. Hearing them cry in pain would be sweet music to my ears."

Especially accompanied by the strains of an ambulance siren, a sound too many Enforcer opponents have heard lately. □

By David Rosenbaum

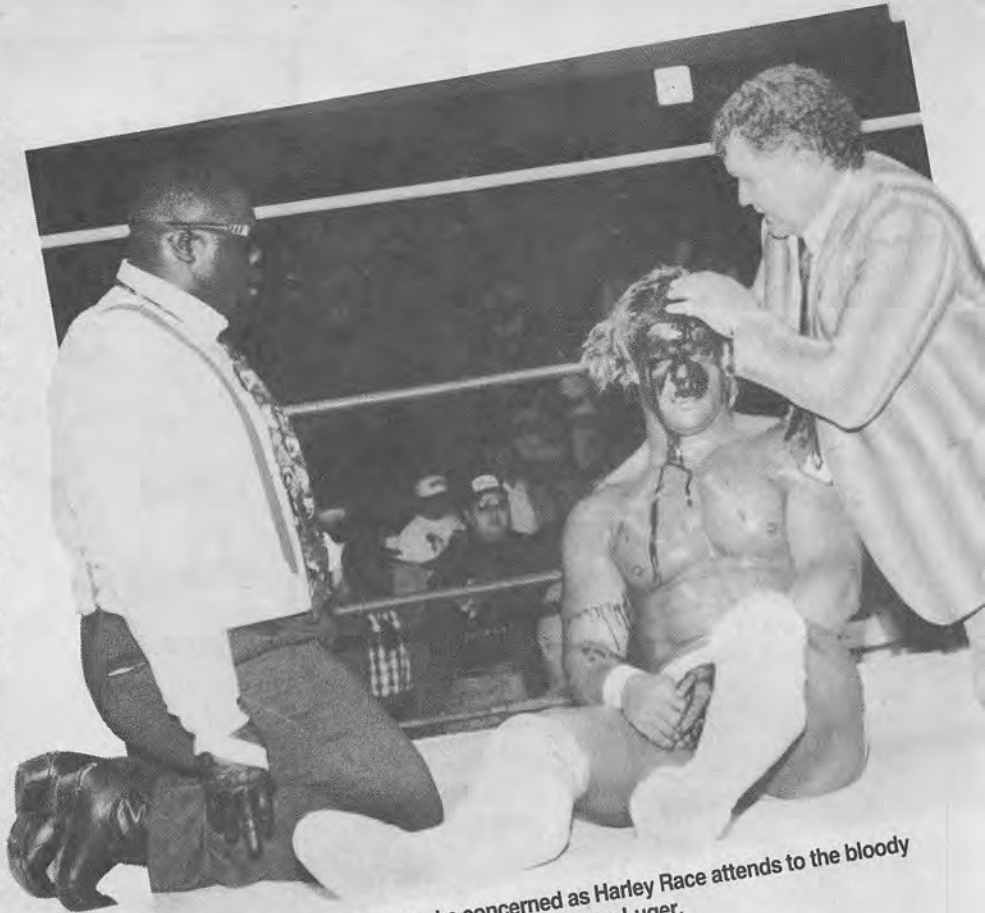
IN THE WWF, Ric Flair is cackling. In WCW, Lex Luger is bleeding. In the WWF, Flair stands proudly with the old NWA World championship belt around his waist and proclaims himself as the "real world champion." In WCW, Luger barely has the strength to snap on his World title belt.

In July, Flair left the federation and the title up for grabs. Luger grabbed it. But as the months go by, it's easy to wonder why Luger wanted the belt in the first place. Defending it has been a chore, and he certainly doesn't seem proud.

Luger thinks he has taken the first steps to glory, but is this how the route really begins?

"He betrayed a lot of people," former World and current U.S. champion Sting said. "I'd say there's a solid half-dozen guys in this federation that just want a piece of his hide and will worry about the title later. You can put me in that category."

Luger still had the title after his Halloween Havoc '91 match against Ron Simmons, but he



Mr. Hughes looks concerned as Harley Race attends to the bloody cuts of WCW World champion Lex Luger.

paid for it in blood and pain. The victory celebration was short; it was actually a time for recovery.

"I won," Luger said afterward. "I still have the belt. Tell it to Simmons."

Any pride Luger took in the victory was nothing more than perverse. Any claim he might have to taking another step into wrestling history was certainly far off the mark. Luger's championship reign

IS THIS WHY YOU WANTED TO BE CH

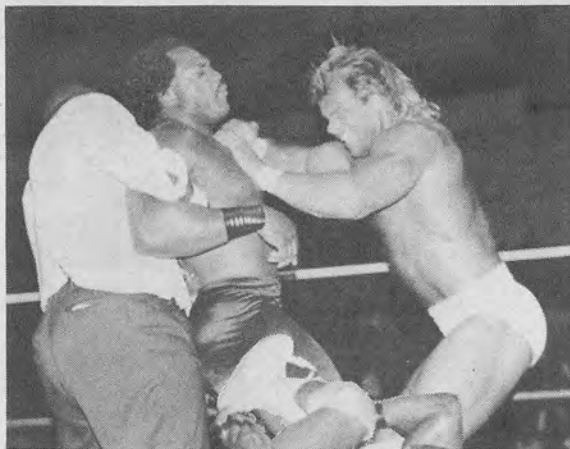
Lex Luger was once a promising champion. Now he's a disgrace. His WCW World title reign has been marked by outside interference and an utter disregard for the rulebook. Luger, who for years longed to put a hurting on a rulebreaking champion named Ric Flair, is now only hurting himself

has been marked by the outside interference of manager Harley Race and bodyguard Mr. Hughes, disregard for the rules, and very few impressive victories.

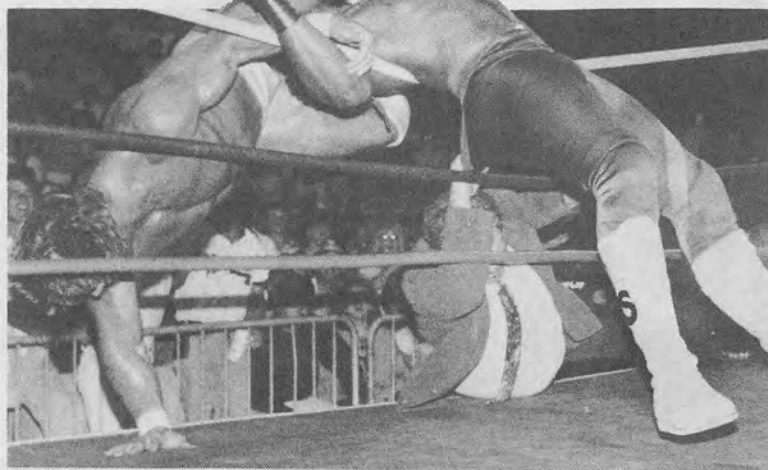
"I have nothing to be ashamed of," Simmons said after Halloween Havoc. "Luger is a great wrestler, but he just insists on these backward tactics. That's okay, I was like that once, too, until I came around. Luger has to realize that he accomplishes nothing when he does these things."

Unfortunately, Luger has so much pent-up bitterness that he really doesn't seem to care how he defends the title. Luger is mad at the world for expecting so much out of him and mad at WCW for denying him the title for so long.

He has yet to look into the mirror and examine himself. Or maybe he already did and disliked what he saw.



Luger laces into Ron Simmons, with Hughes' help (left). At Halloween Havoc, Race's quick thinking kept Simmons in the ring, giving the second fall to Luger by disqualification (below left).



AMP, LEX



Barry Windham may have won the WCW World title, if Race hadn't interfered on Luger's behalf. Windham says Luger should reconsider his need for a manager and bodyguard.

There was a time when the wrestling world looked forward to having Luger as World champion. He is one of the most talented musclemen in the sport, and his rise to the top was well-documented because people wanted to know so much about him.

Even his numerous losses to Flair were impressive in their own way. In most cases, he

outwrestled Flair only to lose on a technicality or by a fluke. While losing, he built his reputation.

That reputation is now gone, and Luger doesn't seem to care. He no longer has any pride in his craft.

"Lex Luger finally learned what I learned a long time ago, that being Mr. Good Guy in this sport will get you nowhere," Race said. "Look at my record, look at all

those world titles, and the fans always hated me. Fine. Let them. My trophy case is overflowing, just like his will be one day."

But Race and Hughes have unwittingly made Luger the enemy of nearly every top wrestler in WCW. Think about it: Luger by himself has always been a fan favorite. Unfortunately, he is easily influenced by outside sources.

Hughes and Race, the men who are so happy to hold up Luger's bloody arms after another war that proved nothing, are the men who got him into this situation.

"I guess my first hope is that somebody beats Luger for the title, but my second hope is that Luger comes around and ditches Race and Hughes *before* he loses it," Sting said. "This is something he worked all his life for, and now he's just throwing it away."

Barry Windham, who has been down the wrong road several times and has now righted himself, sees a lot of himself in Luger. Windham, like Luger, has fallen under the wrong influences and deserted his true friends. Luger, unlike Windham, is a world champion.

"I think the time has come for Lex to just stop for a second and think," Windham said. "I doubt he's done that yet. He should realize where he is and how long it took him to get there. He should say to himself, 'Is this why I wanted to be champion?' I think I know what his answer would be. I know what *my* answer would be."

This Lex Luger can't be counted on for any straight answers. His career has gone so far off the beaten path that even now it's sometimes easy to forget that he is champion. But look at the Top 10 ratings of the entire sport: There, right at number one, is Luger.

"And that's where he belongs," Sting said. "When he's going good, there's none better. In a fair

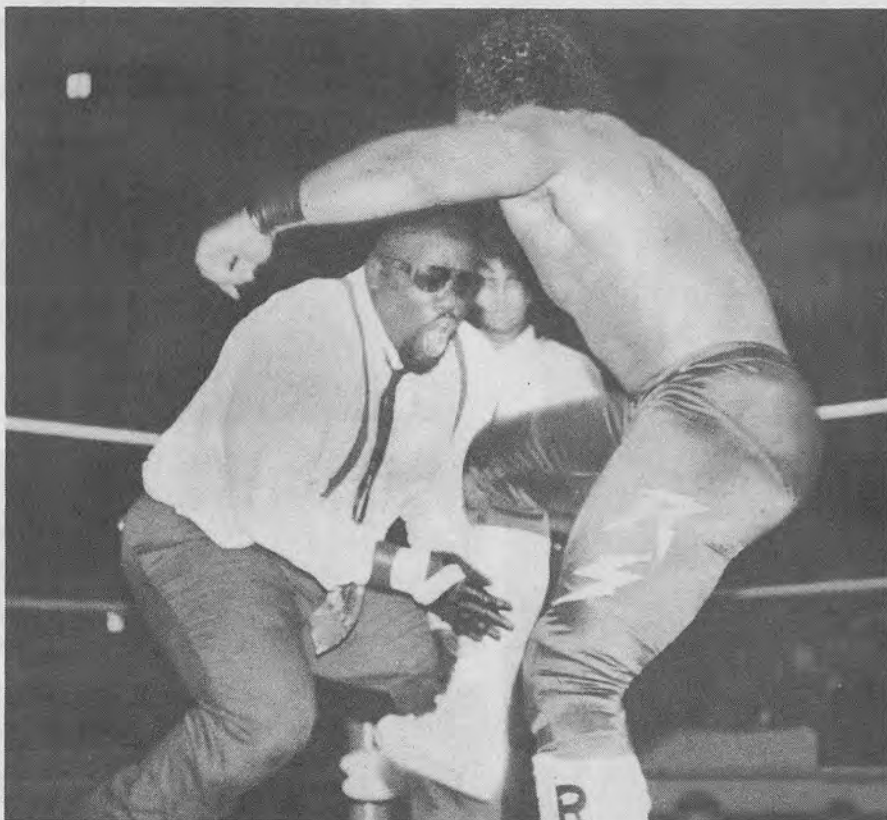
Simmons, unfazed by Hughes' interference, fights him off with a knee to the midsection (right). Despite the Havoc loss, Simmons vows to continue the fight.

match with no outside interference, I'd take him over just about anyone. For some reason he doesn't have the same confidence in himself that we have in him. Too bad."

There is still time for Luger to get righted, to rid himself of Hughes and Race and fulfill the great promise his championship reign once held.

That promise lasted minutes, not even hours, before Luger shocked everyone with his change of heart. We went from one cheating but talented champion to another.

Wrestling deserves better. Sadly, Luger deserves better, too. He has betrayed himself. □

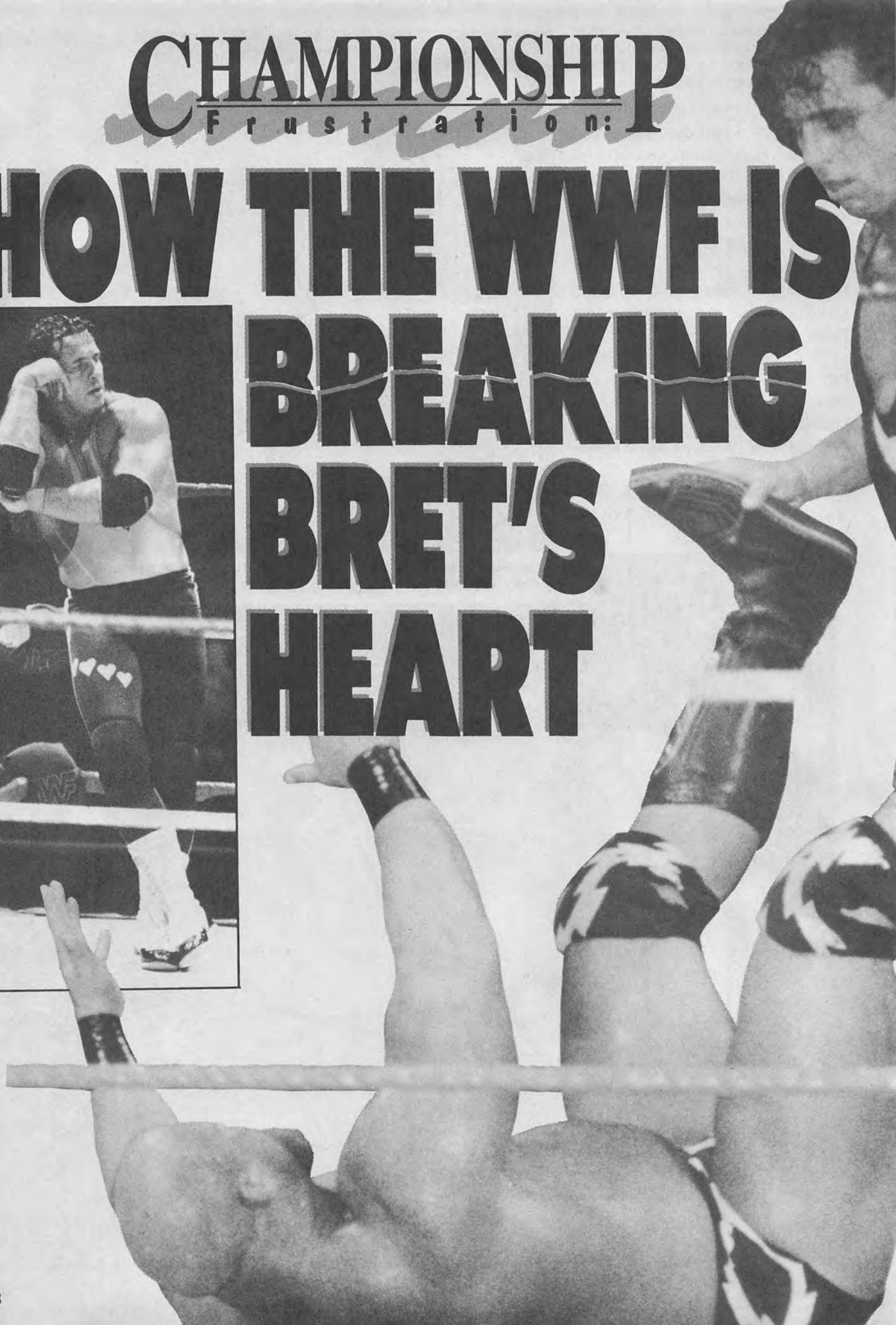
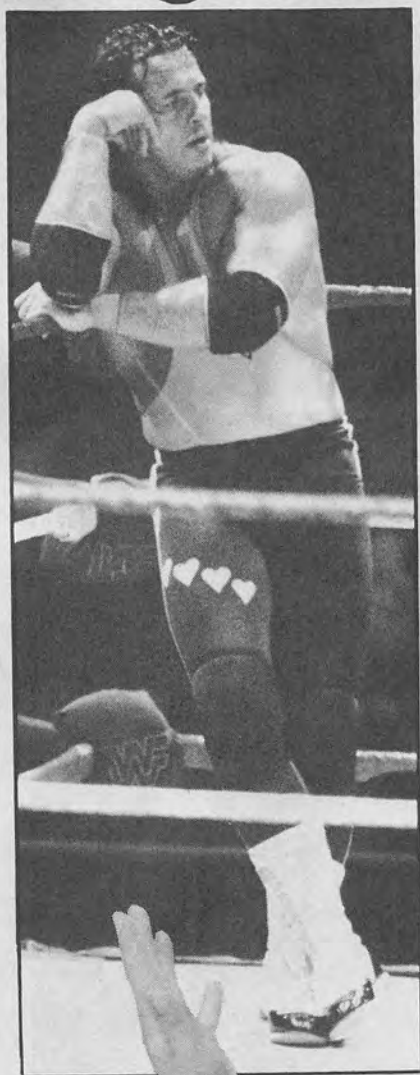


Luger seems humiliated to have Hughes and Race help him back to the locker room (below). The more the "Total Package" defends the title, the more respect he loses.



CHAMPIONSHIP
Frustration:

HOW THE WWF IS BREAKING BRET'S HEART





Neither Warlord (left) nor Berzerker (above) have given Intercontinental champion Bret Hart the challenge he demands. Hart doesn't want to face musclemen; he wants to wrestle skilled grapplers.

By David Rosenbaum

IN A NOT-SO-QUIET corner of the locker room in a WWF arena, a wrestler is feasting on his prematch meal. Globes of mashed potatoes and heaping piles of roast beef overflow from his plate and he gulps down quarts of grape juice.

This is hardly a proper prematch meal. But some wrestlers just feed on food.

In a more quiet corner of a different locker room, a much different kind of wrestler is preparing for his match in a much different way.

With his legs propped up on a stool and his head laid back on a pillow, angled against the corner of his stall, the wrestler gets ready for another easy match. But he doesn't care. His ambition is low.

Now there is another wrestler pacing the hallways and sneaking his head out the runway for a peak at the crowd. He is a bit hyper tonight, which is the way he is every night. The adrenaline rushes through his body and his muscles are pumped full of energy.

And in just about 30 minutes, after his match is over, he will feel no differently. Unfulfilled by another easy match, Bret Hart will return to the locker room, get dressed, and wonder

when he'll *really* get to defend his WWF Intercontinental title.

Different wrestlers. Different styles. Some are content with very little. Not Hart. Winning the I-C title was one of the greatest achievements of his career, ranking even above the WWF World titles he and former teammate Jim Neidhart earned several years ago.

Defending the title has been another story. It has not been enjoyable. It has not been a challenge. He steps into the ring, looks into the other corner, and sees the same old musclemen he's beaten time and time again.

Berzerker one night. Warlord the next. Oh where, oh where, is the competition these days for the I-C title? That's what Hart yearns to know.

"He's going crazy outside and he's dying inside," said Owen Hart, Bret's younger brother. "Sometimes I think he's just going to tear somebody apart. Bret needs a challenge, and facing one musclehead after another just doesn't do it for him."

Understandably, Hart figured his championship reign would be riddled with one difficult challenge after another. After all, Hart based these projections on his difficult, and sometimes seemingly impossible, drive to the I-C

Intercontinental champion Bret Hart is waiting for a challenger, but none are coming. He has faced few challenges in his matches against Warlord and Berzerker. And the men who can test him just don't seem to care

title.

All his effort climaxed in a stunning victory over Curt Hennig at SummerSlam '91. At Madison Square Garden, before cheering thousands, Hart defeated Hennig in a sure Match of the Year candidate.

But that was Hennig's last shot. He has been out of action since, sidelined by a recurring back injury and unable to make an attempt to regain his title. At this point, Hart would welcome matches against one of the toughest scientific wrestlers in the sport.

"Hennig was a great challenge for Hart because they're so similar," WWF expert Thomas Piliard said. "Hennig is a rulebreaker and Hart is a fan favorite, but Hart was once a rule-breaker, too. They both have tremendous stamina and incredible scientific skills. Unfortunately, this rematch has been put off for a long time."

And the WWF has offered Hennig little as a substitute. Let's go down the list of WWF contenders. Ric Flair is more concerned with World champion Hulk Hogan. Irwin R. Schyster is obsessed with his useless feud against Big Bossman. Randy Savage is occasionally back in action, but he's more concerned with Jake "The Snake" Roberts.

Continue down the list. The Undertaker has Hacksaw Duggan. Davey Boy Smith, Rick Steamboat, and Roddy Piper are fan favorites. Everybody is preoccupied except for the usual contenders: Warlord and Berzerker.

What's unfortunate about this is that the I-C title, usually one of the most contentious in the WWF, is being forgotten. Who can forget those wars between Steamboat and Savage. Honky Tonk Man's record-setting I-C title reign was loaded with intense feuds. Even Hennig had to deal with one challenge after another.

The well ran dry for Hart, who needs the competition more than any other wrestler.

"He needs to wrestle top wrestlers two or three times a week just to retain his edge," Owen Hart said. "What's going to happen here is that Bret will become dull from wrestling the muscle-

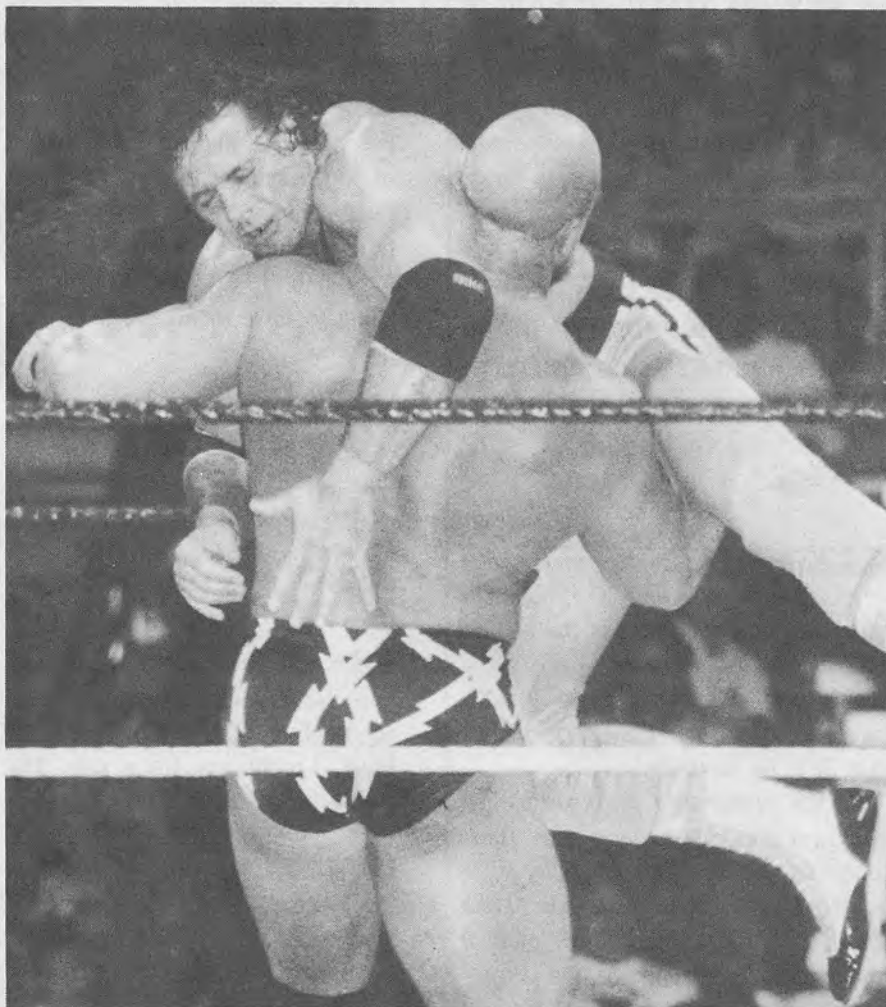


While both Berzerker and Warlord are bigger and stronger than he is, Hart has been able to outwrestle them (above and below) by using his skills and smarts.





For now, it seems as though Warlord (above and below) and Berzerker are Hart's only two I-C title opponents. The I-C belt truly has become a "secondary" title.



men. Then a well-rounded wrestler will come along and strip Bret of the belt when he's unprepared. That's the danger here."

The danger is the unexpected loss. The heartbreak is that Hart's long sought-after dream has not come true. He wants to prove himself as the top I-C champs of all-time. He wants to be the kind of champion the fans can be proud of.

Unfortunately, the WWF seems unwilling to step in and improve the situation. For some reason, most WWF wrestlers are now disinterested in the I-C belt. Their feuds are more important.

Imagine Hart vs. Flair. Even Hart vs. Irwin R. Schyster—formerly known as Syracuse University wrestling star Mike Rotundo—would be an interesting match. How about Hart vs. Steamboat? Why not?

Because the WWF just doesn't seem to care about Hart and the secondary title. Too bad. We're all missing out.

And while fat man eats, Bret Hart paces the WWF hallways, looking for what he can't have. □

HOTSEAT

RICK RUDE

"I FEEL LIKE A MAN AMONG BOYS"

WHEREVER HE HAS gone, success has followed. Controversy has trailed Rick Rude, too, but it seems as if he always manages to run into a championship.

He was heavyweight champion in World Class several years ago, then moved on to the NWA where he shared the World tag team title with Manny Fernandez. In the WWF, he became famous for kissing strange women in the ring—and for scoring one of the biggest upsets in recent history, winning the Intercontinental title from The Ultimate Warrior.

Fans hate him, opponents underestimate him. The fact is that Rude is an impact wrestler. Now he's ready to make perhaps his greatest impact of all.

On WCW's Halloween Havoc '91 card in Chattanooga, Tennessee, a man billing himself as The WCW Halloween Phantom needed only 1:27 to defeat Tom Zenk. The Phantom used a reverse neckbreaker to score the stunning victory.

Later during an interview, Paul E. Dangerously announced he had signed to manage Madusa Miceli. He then said he had signed "a new protege" that would challenge and defeat Sting

for the U.S. title.

The Phantom walked out, removed his mask, and revealed himself to be Rude.

Dangerously's announcement wasn't a total shocker. Rude has always aligned himself with controversial man-

“
I've conquered men, I've
conquered thousands of
women, and I've conquered
every federation on this
earth.
”

agers. There was Percy Pringle in World Class, Paul Jones in the NWA, and Bobby Heenan in the WWF. Now Dangerously is set to engineer Rude's latest run at a title. Past performance says he'll be successful.

Rude's appearance marked his return to a major federation after competing on the independent circuit since leaving the WWF in 1990. He spoke about this and other pertinent matters with *Inside Wrestling* Senior Writer David Rosenbaum.

Q: I must say it wasn't exactly a total surprise to see you at Halloween Havoc. I don't think anybody expected you to take the anonymity of the independent circuit for long.

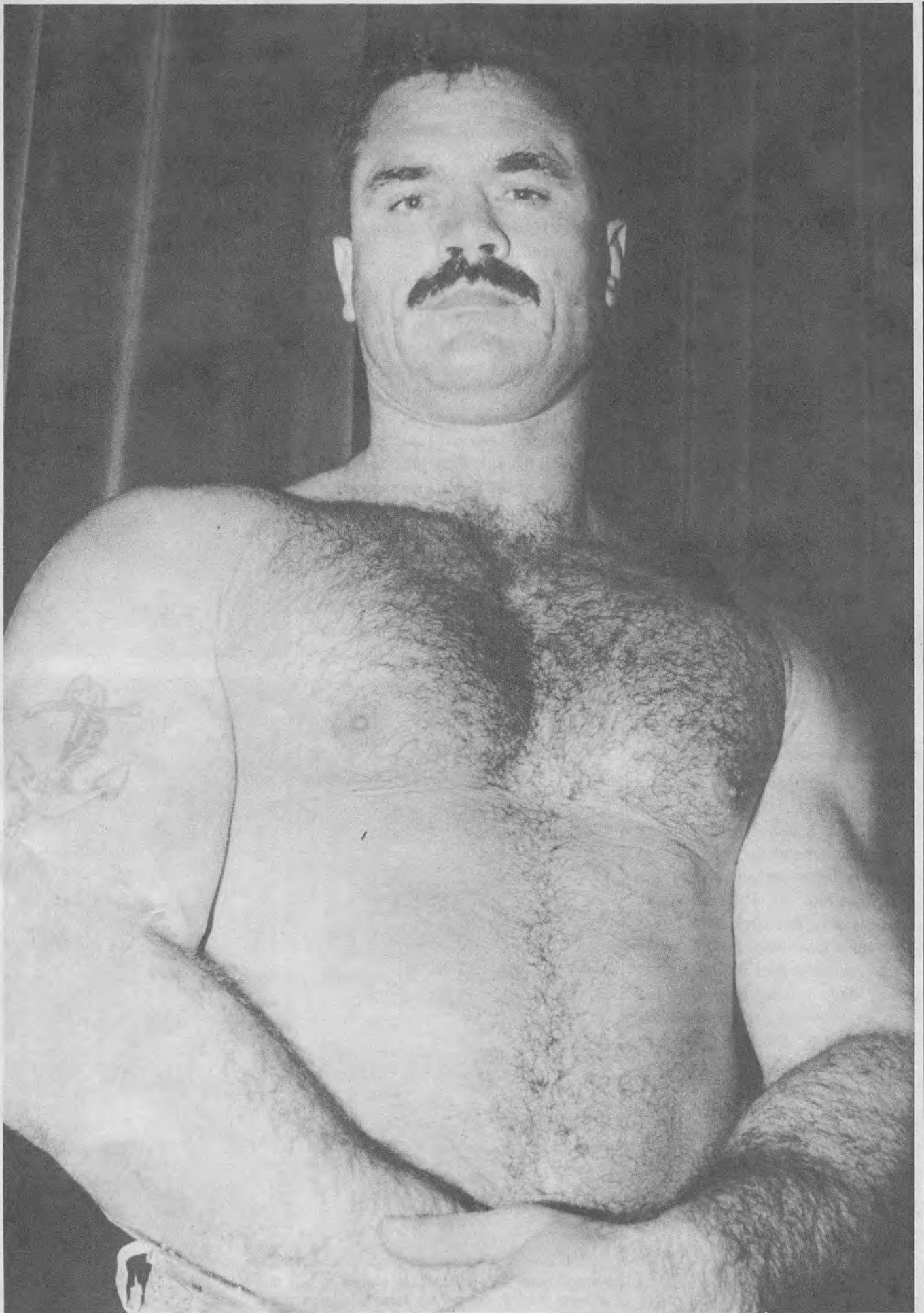
A: To the contrary, I just go where the money is, and Paul offered me so much money to sign with him there was no way I was gonna refuse. And since the pickings are so slim here, it looks like I'm not going to have to do much to earn my money.

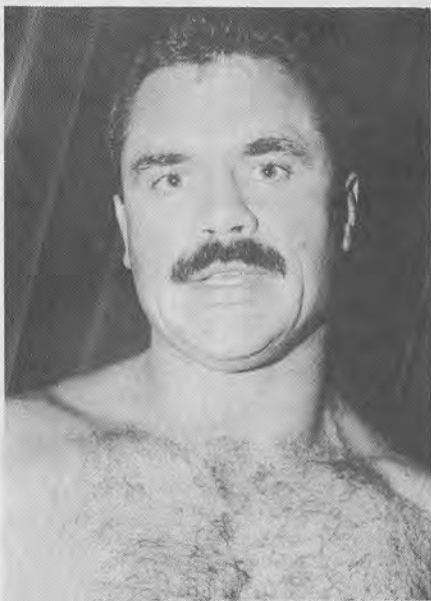
Q: I'm not sure what you're saying. Lex Luger is World champion, you're not going to get close to him for a while, and Sting is U.S. champ. I think you're going to have your work cut out for you, unless you plan on going after a lesser title.

A: Don't give me your useless opinions, Rosenbaum. I'm not interested in Luger right now; I want Sting. I'm hungry for a title. The way I see it, beating him's gonna be like picking cherries off a tree. I've wrestled lots tougher.

Q: I'm not sure that's so.

A: Well, it is so, and I should know because I've wrestled them. Everyone underestimates Rick Rude, but





“

I'm not interested in Luger right now; I want Sting. I'm hungry for a title.

”

don't forget that everybody said I couldn't beat The Ultimate Warrior, and I did. I had that belt strapped around my waist for six months before he got it back, then he ripped me off. The way I see it, this is a perfect circle.

Q: Meaning that you're back in WCW after winning titles elsewhere?

A: No, idiot, meaning that Sting used to be Warrior's tag team partner. Here I was, World Class heavyweight champion, and everybody was saying they were the future of wrestling. People just overlooked me, but what are they gonna say after I've beaten both men for their titles?

Q: I guess you would deserve a certain amount of credit for that. But nobody has ever disputed your ability. Maybe you've been underrated because of your size, but every-

body knows that you've been successful wherever you've gone.

A: And it won't be any different here. You know, after what I've been through, I feel like a man among boys. None of these opponents have my experience and worldliness. I've conquered men, I've conquered thousands of women, and I've conquered every federation on this earth.

Q: So you chose WCW for the money and the chance to beat Sting, but why Dangerously? I think even your fans want to know why you always align yourself with managers when you're probably perfectly capable of getting by on your own.

A: Managers keep me from having to do all the little dirty jobs, and Paul is one of the greatest managers that ever lived. Looking back, Percy eventually betrayed me and Paul Jones was excess baggage. The problem with Heenan was that he got too excited watching me plant my lips on all of those desperate women. But Paul E. is like me.

He's hungry for money and power and he knows how to get what he wants. Signing Madusa was a stroke of genius, and signing me took him to the next level.

Q: But why the grand entrance? Why did you have to masquerade as The Halloween Phantom when you could've easily asked for and received a match against Zenk?

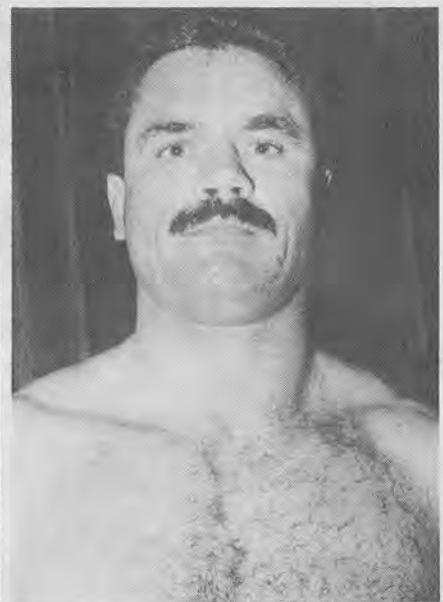
A: Because you get points for style, and image is everything. Watch the ads, Rosenbaum, because they're true. Sometimes how you look is



No one gave Rude much of a chance to win the WWF Intercontinental title from The Ultimate Warrior, but he did. Now he's in pursuit of Sting's WCW U.S. belt.



After defeating Tom Zenk as The Halloween Phantom (opposite page top), Rude unmasked (above). His new manager, Paul E. Dangerously, is thrilled with his new charge.



“

Nobody can resist Rude, but Rude can resist all. It's a time-proven formula.

”

an opportunity, I go after it. If there's a title I want, I grab it. If there's a woman I want, there's no way she can resist me. You know, I think you're just trying to find something that ain't there. This is Rick Rude, all of me, and I'm not hiding anything. I don't have to. I want the whole world to see!

Q: Including Sting.

A: Especially Sting. And when I'm done with him, who knows what will be next? You know, I've never been a world champion. Don't you think the WCW belt would look good on me?

Q: I shudder at the thought. I think a lot of us are going to have to take a wait-and-see attitude with you this time.

A: Go ahead, but don't expect anything new. As you can see, there's absolutely no reason for change. □

more important than what you do. I got people's attention, right? They noticed, they were wondering who I was. They couldn't believe that anybody could thrash Zenk so quickly. Then they found out. I had arrived!

Q: I guess a lot of people want to know why you stayed away from a major federation for so long. You've always enjoyed the spotlight, and those independent federations couldn't have satisfied you.

A: It was something I needed. I was mad when I left the WWF, mad at Heenan, mad at the federation for that ridiculous suspension, and mad at myself for getting too far off the beaten track. I had forgotten how to go about having everything, and wrestling on the independents got me back to where I was. That's it.

Q: But there must have been other offers from federations and managers. How did you resist?

A: Simple. Nobody can resist Rude, but Rude can resist all. It's a time-proven formula.

Q: In many ways it would apply to your opponents, too. Wrestlers really don't hesitate to wrestle you,

then they find out you're tougher than they think. Of course, a lot of that has to do with all the outside interference you depend upon.

A: I depend upon nothing but myself. My managers are there to make sure nothing fishy happens.

Madusa will be there because we're the hottest couple in wrestling. People will see us together and their eyes will flash with envy. They'll know they're in the presence of royalty, and they'll be right.

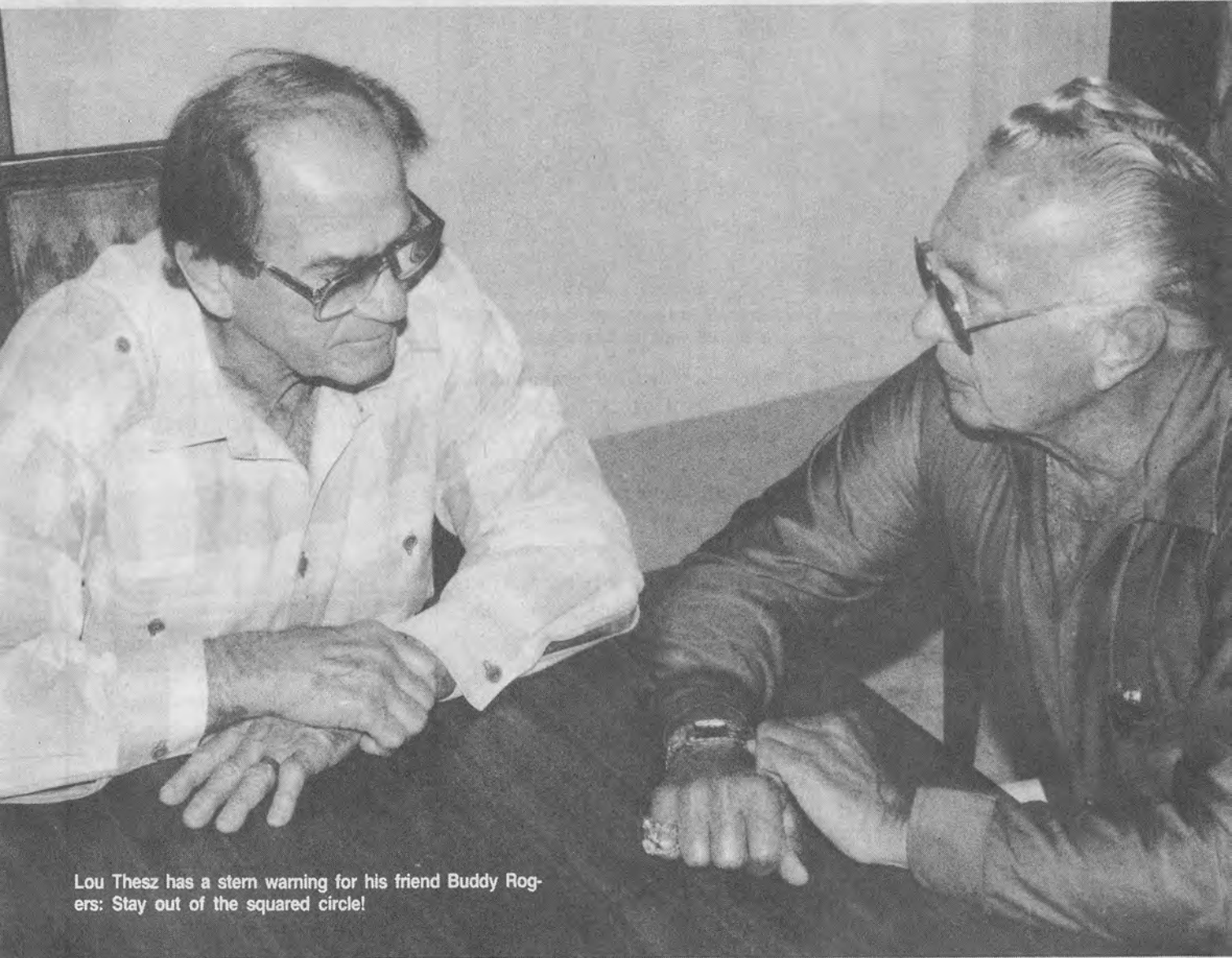
Q: Well, one thing hasn't changed. You're still the most egotistical man in . . .

A: I am *not* egotistical! I just understand myself and what the Rude aura is all about. Before long, all of these fans are going to be reminded of that, and Sting is going to have to deal with it. There's nothing complicated about what's going on here. I'm just doing what I've always done.

Q: Can we expect to see you in WCW for long? Let's face it, you've always been one of wrestling's nomads.

A: Forget the fancy talk, Rosenbaum. I go where the goods are. If there's

LOU THESZ' IMPASSIONED PLEA TO BUDDY ROGERS:



Lou Thesz has a stern warning for his friend Buddy Rogers: Stay out of the squared circle!

***THE RING IS NO PLACE
FOR A 71-YEAR-OLD MAN!***

In what is sure to be one of 1992's major stories, 71-year-old Buddy Rogers is preparing to not only make a wrestling comeback, but to take on Tri-State champion Buddy Landell in January. Last year, 74-year-old Lou Thesz tried a similar comeback—and knows just how dangerous such a match can be!

Six-time former NWA World champion Lou Thesz became the sport's first seven-decade man when he wrestled on December 26 in Japan. Thesz lost, but his legend grew.



By Dave Rosenbaum

AT AN AGE when most people have been reduced to an "active" life of shuffleboard and bridge, Lou Thesz wrestled.

At an age when most grandfathers play leisurely games of catch with their grandchildren, Thesz, at 74, wrestled a man young enough to be his grandson.

One would think Thesz would have been happy just to be in the ring again, reliving his past glories. He wasn't. He wanted to win.

"My hip didn't perform as well as I wanted it to," Thesz said after losing to 27-year-old Masa Chono on December 26 in Hamamatsu, Japan. "The promoters thought I did okay, but I didn't. I'm my most severe critic."

miracle man!



These words say all one needs to know about Thesz. Age is not a barrier to this magnificent individual. He has remained in the level of shape men half his age would envy, although Thesz won't claim it.

"I'm in pretty decent shape for a 74-year-old man," Thesz said. "I left time. Everything was fine, physically and mentally."

His confidence hasn't waned. When the New Japan promotion contacted him about wrestling and asked whether he was in shape, Thesz replied: "Yes, I stay that way."

Thesz, in fact, works out for nearly two hours every day at the gym he runs in Norfolk, Virginia. He wrestles frequently with trainer Mark Fleming and many of the people who come to the gym.

"I love it," Thesz said. "I breathe it. It's all I do, it's all I ever wanted to do. To me, it's like riding a bike. I want to perpetuate wrestling. I do it all the time for nothing. When they called me, I figured I might as well do it for money."

Thesz didn't have to increase his training to prepare for the match; he was already in wrestling shape. Thesz simply kept doing what he had been doing all along.

"It was actually the first time I had wrestled professionally in a couple of years," Thesz said. "I take an occasional match, but not too often."

Chono, who trained under Thesz for several years,

In December 1990, the 74-year-old Thesz wrestled one of his students, 27-year-old Masa Chono, in Japan. He says what he experienced in that encounter drove him to caution Rogers about a similar comeback.

By Bob Smith

LOU THESZ DOESN'T get around the way he used to. After all, the legendary six-time former NWA World champion is nearly 75 years old! He still works out and stays in magnificent condition, but Thesz is very content to quietly enjoy his retirement at his Virginia Beach estate.

During early autumn, however, Thesz received some news that disturbed his peaceful existence. A friend was in need, and he needed to be there.

Of course, if you asked that friend if he was in need, Buddy Rogers would have laughed off the suggestion. At the age of 71, the original "Nature Boy" remains in the same kind of outstanding physical condition as Thesz. Rogers also remains a fiercely proud

man, as cocky as he ever was during his glory years—the '50s and '60s—when the "Rogers strut" was the trademark of the former NWA and WWF World champion.

Rogers was startled one morning when the doorbell rang at his Florida home in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. When he saw Thesz, his once-hated rival who beat him for the NWA title in 1963, he couldn't believe his eyes.

"Why, you old stick in the mud!" laughed Rogers as he shook hands with Thesz. "What in the world are you doing in Florida, champ?"

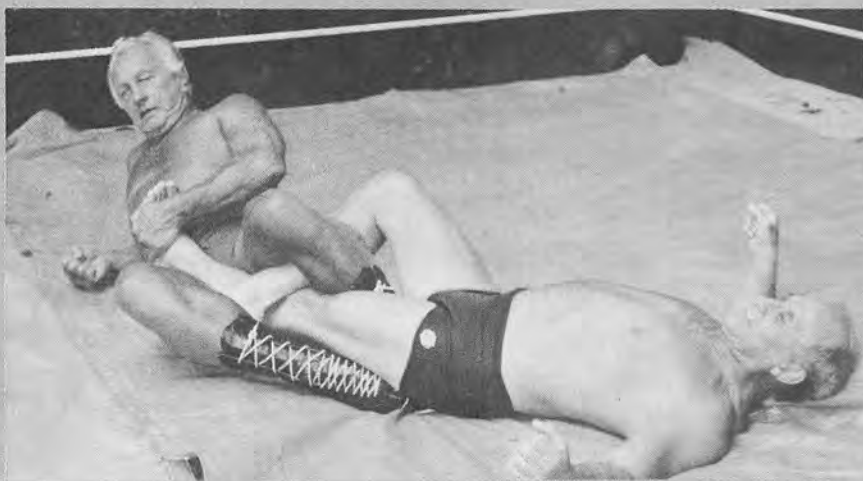
"I came here to see you," said an unsmiling Thesz. Noting his former rival's stern countenance, Rogers invited Thesz to come in

and sit down. It was a typical Florida day—warm and sunny—but Thesz' gloomy demeanor wasn't altered by the pleasant weather.

"What's wrong, Lou?" asked Rogers as the former champions made their way into the living room. "You look as if you've lost your best friend."

"I haven't—at least, not yet," said Thesz as he sat down. "But I've got to warn you, Buddy: You're making the mistake of your life if you wrestle Buddy Landell [on January 25 in Philadelphia.] This is really a vicious young man—and he's in his prime."

"You think I care about that?" said Rogers, nearly laughing at the suggestion that he couldn't make a



Veteran grappler Billy Darnell (above) and Rogers' son, David (right), train the original "Nature Boy" for his return.



David, who has a tough time flipping his dad (below), swears his father still would give any man in the sport a close contest.



Rogers says he's tired of testing himself against his son (top right) and Yukon Lou (right); he wants Tri-State champ Buddy Landell—and wants him now!



triumphant ring comeback. "Landell doesn't concern me at all. I'll beat him, and I'll take that Tri-State title he holds. What's the problem, Lou?"

"Isn't it obvious?" asked Thesz. "The ring is just no place for a 71-year-old man like you. I ought to know—I tried it, and it's just not worth it."

Rogers' January comeback will come 13 months after Thesz himself made his one-night comeback. It was on December 26, 1990, in Hamamatsu City, Japan, that Thesz, then 74, took on a man he once helped train, Masa Chono, in a scientific match.

Thesz, hobbled by an artificial hip and the natural slowness brought by aging, still managed to compete at an amazing level. Thesz showed he was still a technical wrestling master, locking up the 27-year-old Chono in armlocks several times. However, Thesz was defeated by submission in 5:10 when Chono caught Thesz in a combination toehold and facelock—the same hold that Thesz had taught Chono several years earlier.

"You see, Buddy, my situation was totally different," reasoned Thesz. "I was wrestling Chono in a purely scientific bout. He's a man I've known ever since he was a teenager—so he wasn't in there to put a hurt on me—and I still felt awful after the match was over. The body just can't take it anymore. You're going to be taking on Landell, a guy who's crippled dozens of men *his own age*—and he cares about nobody but himself. Face it, Buddy, it's just too big a risk for men our age to take."

Rogers listened to what Thesz had to say, but he wasn't telling him anything he hadn't considered on his own. But his decision was really made on October 26, the day he made a guest appearance as a special referee for a Steve Williams-Bam Bam Bigelow match in Pine Hill, New Jersey. Rogers

took the assignment very seriously. He knew a matchup of two of the sport's top stars deserved only top-level officiating. He worked out hard for a month prior to the match, and many fans were astounded by his spryness and agility. He also displayed the famous Rogers temper when he disqualified Bigelow for ripping his shirt.

Later on the card, Rogers was being interviewed by Tri-State President Joel Goodhart when Landell, who earlier in the evening captured the Tri-State title from popular J.T. Smith, interrupted the conversation. Probably because he's always been compared unfavorably with Rogers and Ric Flair, Landell resents the two wrestlers who have used the "Nature Boy" nickname before him. Landell challenged Rogers to a bout with his title—and nickname—on the line. Rogers didn't even hesitate before responding. "I've got one more good match in me," he said. "Challenge accepted."

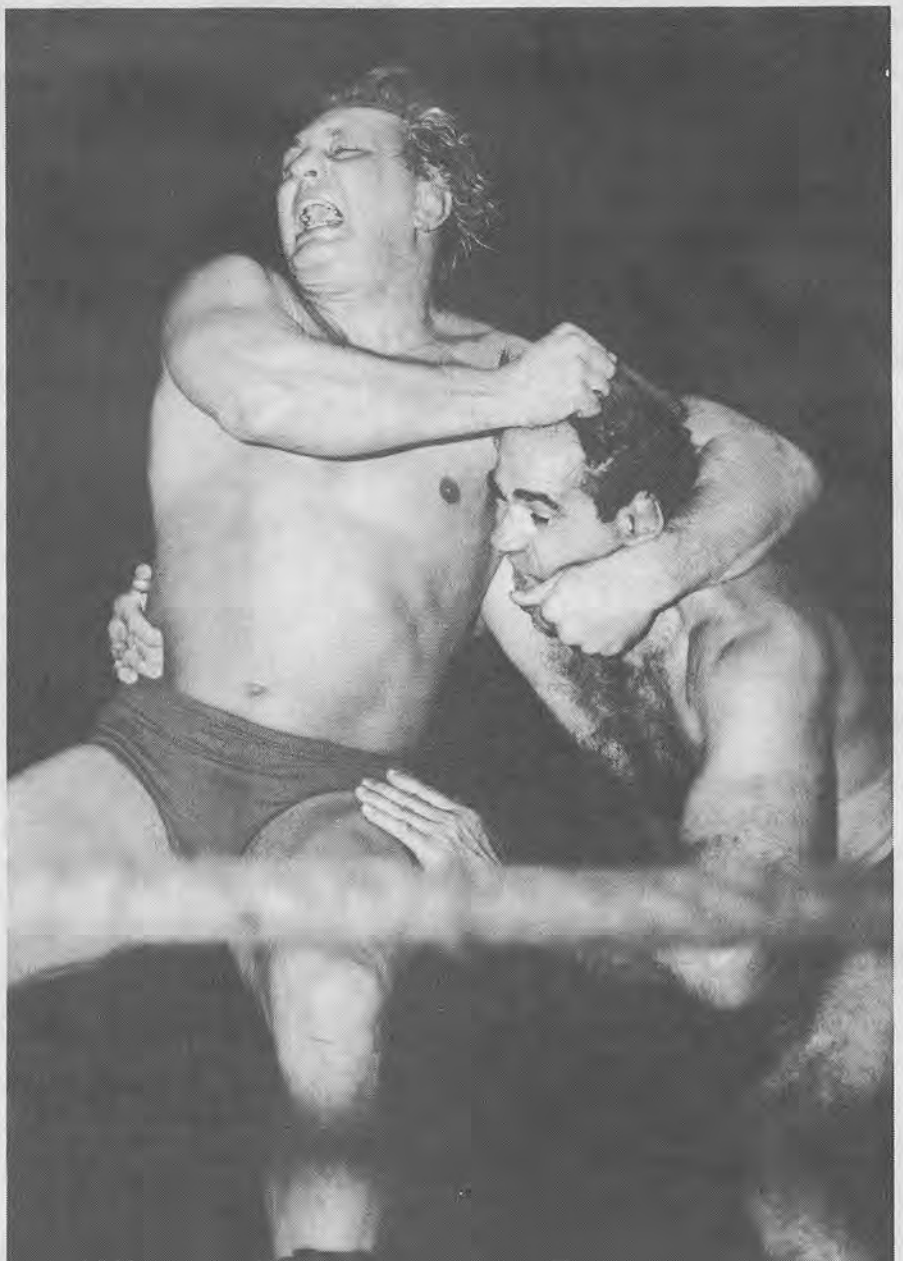
As match time comes closer, Rogers only gains in confidence and determination. To prove himself, Rogers invited Thesz outside, where he was about to begin his daily training sessions with his son, David, veteran Billy Darnell, and huge 275-pound Yukon Lou, who oversees the two-hour sessions. Lou has Rogers undergo 30 minutes of stretching and light weightlifting before going 20 minutes with each sparring partner. "He's getting stronger and in better shape by the day," said Lou as he watched Buddy immobilize David with arm- and leglocks.

"Landell's going to have his butt handed to him," said a sweating Rogers after the training session was completed.

Thesz was impressed, but not convinced.

"Facts are facts, Buddy," he reasoned. "Landell is 41 years younger than you are. It's suicide."

"No way you can talk me out of this one, Lou," said Rogers. "You



In 1963, Rogers lost the NWA title to Thesz (above), who insists Rogers could get badly hurt wrestling a dangerous rulebreaker like Landell. Darnell, though (below), may disagree!



see, wrestling is in my blood again—and only one more victory will help me get over it. I'll tell you what—I'll make a deal with you. If I beat Landell, I'll think about what you've told me. Maybe I'll make a comeback and have a retirement party all at the same time—and you're invited."

Realizing he was not going to prevent the Rogers-Landell bout, Thesz returned to Virginia Beach. The next day, he resumed his usual pastimes of gardening, jogging—and worrying.

Thesz knew he wouldn't feel right again until January 26. □

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

THERE ARE MADMEN on the loose, but don't round up only the usual suspects. Nothing has changed about Cactus Jack, but now he has dragged WCW U.S. champion Sting down to his lowly level.

Their feud started in late-August when Sting defended his title in several matches against Cactus Jack. It was immediately obvious that these were no ordinary battles. Jack is one of the most sadistic men in the sport. And while Sting would rather wrestle on a higher plane, he soon discovered that he would have to fight on Jack's terms.

And, of course, there was the problem of Abdullah the Butcher, Jack's sadistic sidekick. Abdullah and Jack are intent on bringing down both Sting and his friend Rick Steiner, but their energies are clearly more focused on Sting.

Their goal is to drive Sting out of wrestling; Sting's goal is to stop them and find out who is behind this dastardly plot.

Their battles have begun long before the opening bell and stretched out far after a decision—usually double-disqualification—has been rendered. Every imaginable foreign object has been involved. Somehow, Sting still has his belt, but he's straining to maintain his sanity.

Sting scored an important victory

ONE ON ONE



"Your threats don't bother me. I don't care who's behind you, I'm gonna get him, I'm gonna get Abdullah, and I'm gonna get you!"

—Sting

when he, El Gigante, and Rick and Scott Steiner defeated Jack, Abdullah, Diamond Studd, and Big Van Vader in a "Chamber of Horrors" match at Halloween Havoc '91.

But Abdullah was the one "shocked" in this match, leaving Sting still hungry to get it on again with Cactus Jack . . . "One on One."

STING:

This is a total waste of my time. I'm not even sure why I'm here, only to let you know, Jack, that you haven't seen the best of me yet. You made the wrong move when you tried to run me out of this sport. One less wrestler's

gonna be around, and it's not gonna be me.

CACTUS JACK:

You got that wrong, Sting. *Bang, bang!* Let me tell you something, you're dealing with the wrong people. Maybe you better get out of town before we bury you.

S: I'm not scared of you, and I'm certainly not scared of that animal Abdullah you've been dragging around. I've never backed down from a challenge, and I've never been challenged by someone as untalented as you.

CJ: If that's the case, you ain't doing too well, are ya? We're still here, we're still after your hide, and I really don't see you fighting us

N ONE



"You got us at Halloween Havoc, but the next time it'll be for real. Get ready to meet your maker, boy. Bang, bang!"

—Cactus Jack

off, even with your buddies at your side. You got us at Halloween Havoc, but the next time it'll be for real. Get ready to meet your maker, boy. *Bang, bang!*

S: Words, Jack, just words. You and Abdullah get your hides kicked, then you start fighting with one another. You're such animals, you can't even get along with each other. The way I see it, you and Abdullah will bring each other down. I won't have to, but it would still be my pleasure.

CJ: You seem to be forgetting that I'm on a mission . . .

S: I'm forgetting nothing, Jack.

CJ: And you also seem to be forgetting that by interrupting me,

you're only getting me madder. There've been men who interrupted me that are no longer breathing. You gotta watch your manners. You gotta . . .

S: You gotta realize that your threats don't bother me and your antics don't scare me. You gotta realize that this is wrestling, not the zoo, and I don't care who's behind you, I'm gonna get him, I'm gonna get Abdullah, and I'm gonna get you.

CJ: And you're gonna get yourself into one heap of trouble, Sting. Take a look in the mirror and compare yourself to the way you looked when you started out with me. I've noticed a big change.

What's the matter, not getting much sleep? Lookin' under your bed and behind the doors? Good, cause we could pop up anywhere. You're never safe.

S: Jack, you disgust me. You're a miserable cretin with no wrestling skills and a demented mind. I thought Abdullah was bad, but you're worse. He's just an animal. You're insane.

CJ: Glad we got you thinking that way, Sting. That's the first step. The next step is dismantling the Steiners. Then we're gonna let you watch your friends suffer before we get to you.

S: Thanks for letting me in on your strategy, Jack, but forget it. The problem is that you really don't know what you're doing . . .

CJ: But I know what you're getting into.

S: And you're teaming with a man that could turn against you at any time. Think about that. There's something to be said about loyalty, but I don't think you've ever heard of the word.

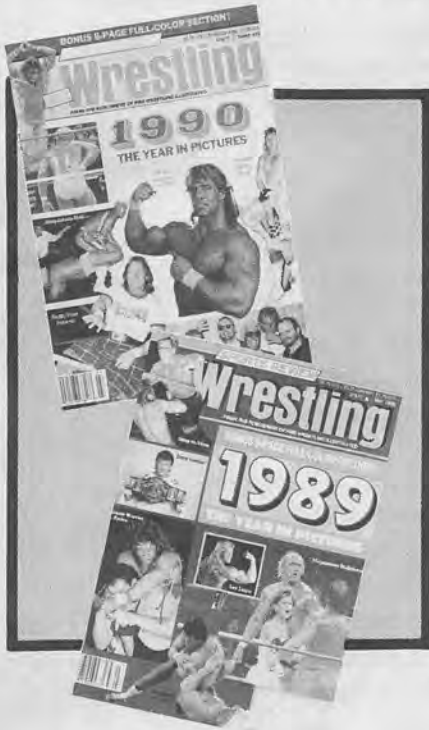
CJ: There're some things to be said about beating your skull in, and I think you're about to hear of those words.

S: Cute, Jack, real cute. You're a wordsmith. Listen, this conversation is getting nowhere. Heck, it's impossible to have a conversation with a maniac. We'll meet in the ring and settle this once and for all. At some point, you're gonna have to deal with me one on one with none of your nonsense. It has to happen.

CJ: Don't bet on it. I'm setting the rules around here, and the rules say that you're gone. That's just the way it's gonna have to be.

S: I haven't given up yet, and I don't intend on giving up. My fans know what they can expect from me. There are no secrets here. Just get ready, because if there's gonna be anybody run out of wrestling, it's gonna be you. □

OWN A PIECE OF WRESTLING HISTORY!



In the March 1990 and March 1991 editions, *Sports Review Wrestling* featured a bonus FULL-COLOR "Year In Pictures" section! All the feuds, title changes, controversies, and dramas of each year are captured in dozens of magnificent peak-action photos as only the staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* can bring them to you! Copies of these collectors' issues are only \$5 each. Supplies are limited, so order today!

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)



Bobby Eaton won't back down from Terrence Taylor (above left), no surprise to reader Nancy Phup. Reader Ned Brandi is glad Leatherface (above right) has left the USWA.



tion, You Must. . .'). If this woman thinks she's assembled the most powerful group of rulebreakers in WCW, she's flipped her chips!

Terrence Taylor has lost his feathers, but he hasn't gained much success, either. Rick Morton is too puny to make it as anything but a tag team wrestler, and Thomas (Don't Call Me Tommy) Rich is . . . well, let's just say he couldn't even dominate the tiny Southern Championship area in Georgia a few years ago.

I notice that it's a Tandy computer that York is holding on page 30. She'd be much better off managing a Radio Shack outlet than managing wrestlers.

NANCY PHUP

Benton Harbor, MI

LEATHER-BOUND

After reading the "Hotseat" interview with that USWA idiot Leatherface (December 1991), I couldn't believe that your interviewer, Bob Smith, fell for the malarkey that the big goon was spewing. As far as I'm concerned, Leatherface wears the mask and carries that chainsaw because he's trying to intimidate his opponents—and that's all.

A bad childhood? No friends? Who cares! I notice that Leatherface is gone

from the USWA already. Perhaps now they'll hire wrestlers instead of goofs in cheap Halloween costumes.

NED BRANDI

Boston

CACTUS SACKED

I truly wish you'd find better people to do "Capsule Profiles" on than Cactus Jack, who was featured in the December 1991 issue. Lunatics like Jack don't deserve this kind of coverage.

When Jack tried to maul Sting during the "chamber of horrors" bout at Halloween Havoc '91, he immediately rose to the top of my most hated list. Hopefully, Sting will show that no matter how rough Cactus thinks he is, Sting can be just that much tougher.

GEORGINA DAVID

Ware, MA

SLAMMIN'

I just wanted to write to thank you for the great coverage of SummerSlam '91 that was featured in the December 1991 issue. Since I can't get pay-per-view in my area—and the regular WWF TV programs don't tell you who won the matches—I didn't know who won each event until I read the results in your magazine. What a great

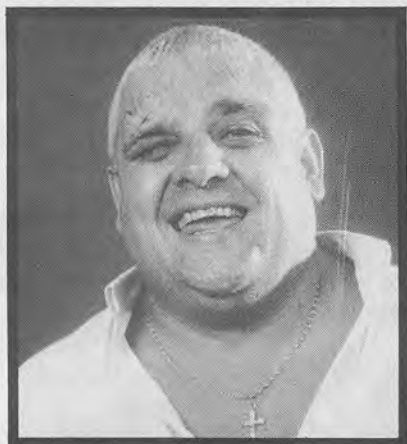
(Continued on page 54)

THIS MONTH IN...

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



Thrill to our exciting "Superstar Dream Match:" **STING** vs. **BRET HART**



Find out why **DUSTY RHODES** will never be content to be just a referee

PLUS . . .

FULL-COLOR "Action Gallery" of **CACTUS JACK** . . . Struggling with **IRS**: **JIM NEIDHART** finds solo competition too taxing! . . . Special section: 10 wrestlers who will make 1992 sizzle! . . . America's message to **HACKSAW DUGGAN**: WAAAAAKE UP!!!!!!

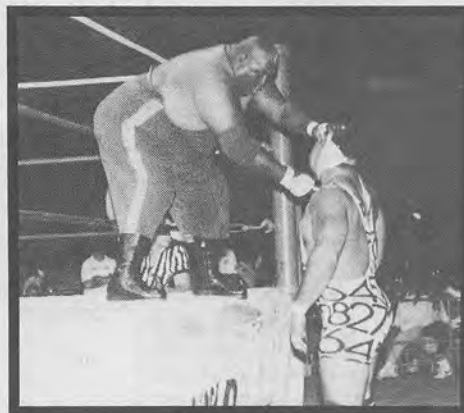
All this—and much more . . .
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THE Wrestler



Read our shocking WWF report, and find out why **VINCE McMAHON** may have offered **RODDY PIPER** a bounty to destroy **RIC FLAIR**!



RICK STEINER vs. **ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**: Two crazies get too crazy!

PLUS . . .

RON SIMMONS' status cemented: Why Halloween Havoc scared the hell out of **LEX LUGER** . . . Why do **JERRY LAWLER'S** foes want so badly to destroy him? . . . It's no bull: **EL MATADOR** is a contender again! . . . "Spotlight" on **BRIAN PILLMAN** . . . A "Q & A" interview with **BOB BACKLUND**

All this—and much more . . .
in the February 1992 issue of
The Wrestler

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

source of information!

I couldn't believe how The Natural Disasters dominated The Bushwhackers, and how easily Bret Hart won the Intercontinental title from "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig. Thanks to your

coverage, I feel like I was right there to see those matches. Keep up the great work.

ROBERT ROBISON
Oak Hill, NY

Hulk Hogan an American hero? Do all of our national symbols throw powder in their opponents' faces to win their matches? That match ruined SummerSlam for me.

RONI WILTON
Edina, MN

ON THE EXPRESS-WAY

I think you folks have it all wrong in getting on Stan Lane for retaining the services of Jim Cornette ("Jim Cornette & Stan Lane: Riding The Express To Nowhere," December 1991).

For more than six years, Cornette has done everything for his proteges. Just because Bobby Eaton has gone on to stardom without Cornette doesn't

mean that Cornette isn't doing everything in his power to build up Lane's career.

There's no doubt in my mind that if Lane sticks with Cornette, Jim will make Stan a champion again. They belong together, no matter how much you people try to bring them down.

HANK DAVIS
Burlington, VT

ONE ON NONE

I had to laugh when I read the "One On One" confrontation between Scott Steiner and Dick Murdoch in the December 1991 issue. Today, Scott is back in action after recovering from his arm injury. Murdoch said he'd cripple Scott if he ever came back. So where is Murdoch now?

Steiner's in the prime of his career. Murdoch is ready for the old folks' home.

DAN KAMEN
Sarasota, FL

Reader Hank Davis applauds Stan Lane for retaining the services of Jim Cornette; he's convinced the manager will make Lane a champion again.



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September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

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January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors, **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

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July 1990/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, **Lex Luger**, Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

September 1990/PINUP: Rick & Scott Steiner, **COLOR FEATURES: Hogan**, Sting, Horsemen, Hennig.

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November 1990/PINUP: Legion of Doom, **COLOR FEATURES: Sting** beats Flair, Rude-Warrior.

December 1990/PINUP: Sting, **COLOR FEATURES: Legion of Doom**, Kerry, Slaughter, Doom, Horsemen.

January 1991/PINUP: Kerry Von Erich, **COLOR FEATURES: WWF vs. NWA**, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri.

February 1991/PINUP: 1991 calendar, **COLOR FEATURES: Scott Steiner**, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase.

April 1991/PINUP: Tom Zenk, **COLOR FEATURES: Sgt. Slaughter**, Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



Paul Orndorff maintains that Ric Flair is the toughest man he's ever faced; recall that "Mr. Wonderful" had an intense series of bouts with Hulk Hogan.

ed with the man, but Flair has often been guilty of bad decisions. I'm convinced that The Four Horsemen not only robbed Flair of respect from the wrestling community, they kept him from developing even more completely as a wrestler. Imagine that.

The telltale clue as to what the WWF powers-that-be think about Flair is that they're not making him work his way up the ladder. Flair was scheduled to wrestle Hogan almost immediately after he entered the federation.

So the WWF was only admitting what Heenan had already told everyone. The *real* world champion has arrived. His name is Flair.

Atlanta Braves owner Ted Turner wasn't showing much confidence in his team when he allowed his Turner Broadcasting System to schedule WCW's Halloween Havoc '91 for the same

"Not to take anything away from either, but there's no doubt that I'd rather wrestle Hogan. There are too many ways Flair can beat you."

Orndorff isn't the only wrestler that feels this way. In fact, many of the WWF's wrestlers feel that Hogan is no longer the best wrestler in his own federation. Many of them place Hogan fourth behind Flair, Sid Justice, and Bret Hart.

The point is that in every conceivable category, except power and determination, Flair is superior to Hogan. He is the better scientific wrestler, he has far better stamina, and his ringmanship can't be questioned. Flair is wrestling.

I hate to agree with Heenan. It's unfortunate that Flair has sid-

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night as the seventh game of the World Series.

It was a bad break for TBS. The Halloween Havoc pay-per-view airing not only went head-to-head with game seven, but with the Washington Redskins-New York Giants football game. It was one of the biggest TV sports nights of the year. WCW should have planned better; neither of these events were scheduled at the last minute.

By the way, it was also interesting to note that Turner felt the Braves-Twins game was more important than the WCW World title match between Lex Luger and Ron Simmons. A world championship was on the line in both cases, but Turner chose the Metrodome, a date with Jane Fonda, and the Braves.

I can't fault the TBS chairman of the board for his choice. But with the Braves in the World Series for the first time since he bought them in 1976 and 50,000 fans screaming themselves hoarse in the ninth inning of a scoreless seventh game, how the hell could Ted Turner fall asleep? He should have stuck with wrestling.

Can the WWF survive without Sid Justice for four months? Just as Justice was about to scale the final wall to stardom, he suffers a severe injury to his left bicep muscle. Justice, like Lex Luger, constantly seems to be suffering career setbacks. He'll have his day.

Note to Tito Santana: Your El Matador gimmick is tasteless. There is nothing heroic about men who make a living by torturing defenseless animals.

I wonder what Chief Jay Strongbow thinks about all the controversy surrounding the Atlanta Braves and the tomahawk chop. The Chief always had a unique view of things. ☐

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)



Ellner on Duggan: Hacksaw is dumber than he looks (no easy achievement, that) if he thinks Sgt. Slaughter is an American patriot.

about every fan, every wrestler, and every official in the Global Wrestling Federation who just recently learned that The Boss—the mysterious head of an assemblage of rulebreakers known as The Cartel—was in fact interim North American Commissioner Max Andrews! It took an investigation by announcer Joe (Give Me Ultra SlimFast Or Give Me Heart Failure) Pedicino to reveal the shocking news.

"This is corruption of the highest order," said Marco Villas, the Global director of internal affairs, whose job security after the revelation is in serious jeopardy. "To think that Andrews was handling the American affairs of Global while paying wrestlers to attack other competitors is shocking."

It's also genius and should catapult Max Andrews into the race for Executive of the Year. He has my vote, that's for sure.

A giant turkey to Hacksaw Duggan, the man with a brain any self-respecting turkey would reject.

Hacksaw is lobbying hard for us to accept Sgt. Slaughter back as a champion of American values.

We all deserve to be forgiven for our transgressions. What would life be without the opportunity to make amends and plug the holes of past follies? But Slaughter is a whining fraud, a charlatan of the highest order. At his best, when he was whipping The Iron Sheik from post to post and selling out arenas and earning accolades from politicians and community groups, Slaughter kept close tabs on T-shirt and record sales. First and foremost, The Chin is a born marketer and self-promoter, a wrestler considerably thereafter, and a patriot last and absolutely least. As long as they keep printing the faces of American Presidents on American money, Slaughter will be a loyal American. If Saddam Hussein came up with a better offer tomorrow, Slaughter would be on the first camel back to the desert.

Duggan has the intelligence of one of his 2x4s, but even he should be able to recognize what Slaughter's all about.

PUMPKINS

Stop looking, Linus; I've found the Great Pumpkin. Bill Apter, our body beautiful senior editor and photographer *par excellence*, has reacted unusually to the medication he's been taking to reverse his chronic hair loss and ugliness. A spokesman from the Mayo Clinic, where Bill is currently undergoing extensive medical testing, said: "Thus far there is no explanation why Mr. Apter's head expanded and his scalp turned orange. We're confident we will soon determine the reason."

Should Bill not respond to treatment, he will be on display during Christmas week in our building's lobby during regular business hours. See you there. □

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December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnight-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.

May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.
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October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.
November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.
December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.
January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
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May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orient.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

Shortly after our meeting, Jesse Barr turned professional and made quite a name for himself. Six years ago, he was rated as one of the top prospects in the country, combining an extensive knowledge of the sport with a healthy recklessness.

Then, a curious thing occurred. Claiming lineage to another great wrestling family, the Funks, Jesse changed his name to Jimmy Jack Funk and donned a mask. He remained perennial crowd-pleaser and a tremendously successful wrestler, but rarely discussed the change. "It's not that important," he'd say when the questions moved in that direction. "It's just something I did."

And has now undone. After being unmasked by J.W. Storm in

Ron Simmons nearly won the WCW World title from Lex Luger, and surprisingly won praise from Harley Race.

Portland, Funk decided to leave his mask off and compete under his given name. Commenting on the decision, Barr not surprisingly said, "It's not that important. Some fans know me as Funk and others as Barr. What is important is that I pay Storm back for embarrassing me in front of my fans."

You know what Shakespeare said: A rose by any name still has one mean bulldog headlock. I wish Jesse/Jimmy the best of luck in whatever direction his name leads him.

Harley Race was the first to draw a parallel between the World Series and the Halloween Havoc title match between his charge, Lex Luger, and Ron Simmons.

"There were no losers here tonight," Race said, though his man did earn the victory and re-



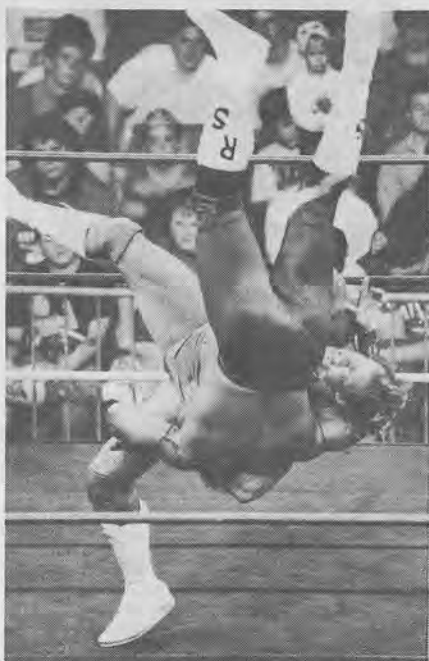
tain his WCW World title. "What you saw tonight was two world-class wrestlers engage in combat. It made me proud to call this my profession. Ron Simmons has nothing to be ashamed of. He can wrestle for me anytime he wants."

Simmons declined Race's generous offer, saying after the match that he'd "like another crack at Lex Luger. There is no satisfaction in coming in second, even if it's a close second. Compliments from Mr. Race are nice, but I would still prefer the title belt around my waist. I think, at 100 percent, I can beat Lex Luger."

Few people knew at the time that Simmons wrestled Luger—and had been dispatching challengers en route to the contest—with a fractured right wrist.

"A minor inconvenience," said Simmons, dismissing his injury as if it were a mild head cold.

"Ron has the highest threshold of pain this side of Steve Wil-




Simmons insists he would have beaten Luger had he been 100 percent healthy.

liams," said Barry Windham, who is nursing a broken wrist of his own. "This injury would have incapacitated 99 percent of pro wrestlers. Ron never complained, but I know he was in tremendous

agony, and it definitely affected his concentration. After a match, he would retreat to his dressing room and close the door until his hand stopped throbbing. Then he would come out and sign autographs for an hour.

"If he was healthy, Luger wouldn't have stood a chance. Ron is in the prime of his career and he won't be stopped until he wins the title. WCW, heck, all of wrestling, needs a champion like Ron Simmons. He's a true role model for all ages, races, and attitudes."

WCW has been in a moral decline since the final years of Ric Flair and could use an injection of courage and fortitude into the office of champion. Even as a rule-breaker, Ron Simmons was always a stand-up guy, never refusing an interviewer, always accommodating to the fans. When his hand heals, Lex Luger maybe in for a slap in the face. □



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PATRIOT

(Continued from page 30)

alone an opponent. "The kid's got it all. Power, speed, science, stamina. But more than that, he's got a real desire to make Global a national force. Those are factors that a young guy can only develop if he wants to be the best. And I rate Patriot right up there with Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair as the very best."

With each successive match, more wrestling observers are slowly beginning to agree with Axis' assessment of Patriot's title reign. More importantly, news of Patriot's advancing skills has superseded any negative publicity surrounding the Andrews scheme. Indeed, fans want to know more about The Patriot, not The Boss.

"Why should a plot by Andrews—a plot that resulted in nothing, anyway—get in the way of all the good Patriot has done?" asked Randy Davidson, a regular ringsider at the weekly Dallas Global cards. "Fans care more about the wres-



Veteran star Stan Lane has given Patriot a stiff challenge, but the sensational rookie remains North American champion. Patriot's skills are winning him worldwide fame.

Vol. 1



Buddy "Nature Boy" Rogers vs. Pat O'Connor
1961 Classic World Title Bout
Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez vs. Skull Murphy & Karl Von Hess
June Byers vs. Betty Hawkins
Dick the Bruiser vs. Pepper Gomez
The Sheik vs. Mark Lewin
Bonus interview: Wild Red Berry & The Fabulous Kangaroos

Vol. 2



Gorgeous George vs. Jesse James
Antonino Rocca vs. Johnny Valentine
6-Man Tag Team Match:
The Fabulous Kangaroos & Dr. Jerry Graham vs. Antonino Rocca, Miguel Perez & Ricki Starr
Killer Kowalski vs. Edouard Carpentier
Haystacks Calhoun vs. Killer Brooks

Vol. 3



6-Man Tag Team Match—2 out of 3 falls:
Buddy Rogers, Handsome Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice vs. Bobo Brazil, "Calypso Kid" Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas
Tolos Brothers vs. Bob Nandor & Chet Wallick
Ed Carpentier vs. Skull Murphy
Yukon Eric vs. Fritz Von Erich
Bulldog Brower vs. Bearcat Wright

Vol. 4



The Fabulous Kangaroos vs. Moose Cholak & Mighty Atlas
Bruno Sammartino vs. Hans Schmidt
Dr. Jerry & Eddie Graham vs. Antonino Rocca & Miguel Perez
Skull Murphy & Brute Bernard vs. The Bavarian Boys
Bobo Brazil vs. Ski Hi Lee

Vol. 5



The Sheik vs. Bobo Brazil
Antonino Rocca vs. Hans Schmidt
with special guest referee: Joe Louis
Wrestling Workouts
Dory Dixon & Sailor Art Thomas vs. Johnny Barend & Magnificent Maurice
Gorgeous George vs. Illo Dipaolo

Vol. 6



Mixed Tag Team—Heavyweights and Midgits:
Luis Martinez & Little Boy Blue vs. Beautiful Bruce & Sky Low Low
Steel Cage Match:
Randy Savage vs. Jerry "The King" Lawler
Female Midgits:
Princess Little Dove vs. Diamond Lil
Mixed 6-Man Tag Team:
Little Bruiser, The Bruiser & The Crusher vs. Bobby Heenan, Blackjack Mulligan & Blackjack Lanza
2-Ring Detroit Battle Royal featuring:
Andre The Giant, Bobo Brazil, The Wolfman, The Brute, The Wild Man

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Patriot won't stand for Lane's rulebreaking. The young grappler has taken it upon himself to uphold the honor and integrity of a federation shaken by the Andrews scandal.

ting action than anything the officials do. Even Andrews couldn't dampen all the excitement The Patriot has caused around here. Heck, Patriot's the reason I come to every Global card—he's fantastic!"

"I truly appreciate the way the fans feel about me," said Patriot, who was able to speak to the press a few days after the initial shock of the Andrews revelation wore off. "But now I've got to work even harder than I did before. I want to travel the world and take on only the very best competition I can find. Global's got some image-cleansing to do, and as its top champion it's up to me to make sure people forget about Max stinking Andrews forever."

Pity Max Andrews. After spending months scheming and skimming the GWF tills, all he got for his efforts was a lifetime suspension—and a lifetime of embarrassment.

Applaud The Patriot. After spending months competing in totally honorable fashion, what he got for his efforts is a future full of glory—and a lifetime of cheers from the fans.

There's a lesson to be learned there. ☐

BACK ISSUES

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WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

Each issue features a spectacular full-color centerfold Action Gallery of one of wrestling's hottest stars.

- | | | | |
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| FALL/83
Section: Gordon Solie's analysis of WCW stars; Color Action Gallery: Dusty Rhodes | FALL/86
Section: Rating Top 20 stars; Color Action Gallery: Bruiser Brody | WINTER/88
Section: Wrestling's sexiest superstar; Dream match: Flair vs. Savage; Color Action Gallery: Rick Rude | DEC/90
Section: Wrestling's sexiest superstar; Dream match: Hennig vs. Rude; Color Action Gallery: Missy Hyatt |
| SPRING/84
Section: 10 top stars reveal their secret feuds; Color Action Gallery: Tommy Rich | SPRING/87
Section: These terrors must be banned; Dream match: Morton vs. Gibson; Color Action Gallery: Hulk Hogan | SUMMER/89
Section: Rating top 20 stars; Dream match: Animal vs. Hawk; Color Action Gallery: Top 20 stars | FEB/91
Section: Wrestling's next champs; Dream match: Sting vs. Luger; Color Action Gallery: Legion of Doom |
| FALL/84
Section: Stars answer your most personal questions; Color Action Gallery: The Giant | SUMMER/87
Section: Greatest cage matches ever; Dream match: Battle royal; Color Action Gallery: Cage match fury | FALL/89
Section: Men who will dominate the '90s; Dream match: Hogan & Steamboat vs. Savage & Flair; Color Action Gallery: Ultimate Warrior | APRIL/91
Section: 10 teams we'd like to see; Dream match: Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior; Color Action Gallery: Sid Vicious |
| WINTER/84
Section: Wrestling's sexiest superstar; Color Action Gallery: Billy Jack | FALL/87
Section: Men other wrestlers fear most; Dream match: Hawk & Animal vs. Zenk & Martel; Color Action Gallery: Rick Steamboat | WINTER/89
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Section: Wrestling's best—the experts decide; Dream match: Strongest man competition; Color Action Gallery: Ric Flair |
| SPRING/85
Section: 10 most hated men in wrestling; Color Action Gallery: Roddy Piper | WINTER/87
Section: Rating top 20 tag teams; Dream match: Luger vs. Savage; Color Action Gallery: Great American Bash | SUMMER/90
Section: Greatest finishing maneuvers; Dream match: Hogan vs. Luger; Color Action Gallery: Hulk Hogan | AUGUST/91
Section: Ranking top 20 stars; Dream match: Legion of Doom vs. Steiners; Color Action Gallery: Curt Hennig |
| SUMMER/85
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Section: These men must be banned; Dream match: Andre vs. Gigante; Color Action Gallery: The Undertaker |
| SPRING/86
Section: World champs' toughest matches; Color Action Gallery: Ric Flair | FALL/88
Section: The men most likely to take titles; Dream match: Hogan vs. Tyson; Color Action Gallery: Sting | OCT/90
Section: 50 strongest men in the sport; Dream match: tag team extravaganza; Color Action Gallery: Steve Williams | DECEMBER/91
Section: Ranking top 20 teams; Dream match: battle royal of champions; Color Action Gallery: Rick & Scott Steiner |

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

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|---|---|---|--|
| 1— LEX LUGER
(1) WCW World champion | 4— STING
(4) WCW U.S. champion | 8— THE PATRIOT
(6) GWF North Am. champion | 12— EDDIE GILBERT
(-) Global TV champion |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
(2) WWF World champion | 5— BRET HART
(3) WWF I-C champion | 9— STEVE AUSTIN
(5) WCW TV champion | 13— TOM PRICHARD
(-) USWA Texas champion |
| 3— RIC FLAIR
(-) No. 1 contender: WWF title | 6— JERRY LAWLER
(7) USWA champion | 10— ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
(10) No. 1 contender: U.S. title | 14— CRUSH
(-) Pacific Northwest champion |
| | 7— BRIAN PILLMAN
(-) WCW light heavy champion | 11— THE UNDERTAKER
(-) No. 3 contender: WWF title | 15— ERIC EMBRY
(11) USWA Southern champion |

WCW

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1— LEX LUGER
(1) 268, Chicago, IL | 4— STEVE AUSTIN
(3) 241, Dallas, TX | 8— VAN HAMMER
(11) 290, New York, NY | 12— CACTUS JACK
(7) 277, Truth Or Cons., NM |
| 2— STING
(2) 260, Venice Beach, CA | 5— ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
(5) 360, Khartoum, Sudan | 9— DUSTIN RHODES
(8) 254, Austin, TX | 13— EL GIGANTE
(7) 435, Argentina |
| 3— BRIAN PILLMAN
(9) 233, Cincinnati, OH | 6— RICK STEINER
(-) 248, Detroit, MI | 10— BIG JOSH
(-) 238, Portland, OR | 14— JOHNNY B. BADD
(12) 234, Macon, GA |
| | 7— BOBBY EATON
(-) 233, Huntsville, AL | 11— ARACHNAMAN
(-) 226, parts unknown | 15— P.N. NEWS
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WWF

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
(1) 302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— THE UNDERTAKER
(6) 320, Dallas, TX | 8— JAKE ROBERTS
(-) 246, Stone Mountain, GA | 12— BERZERKER
(5) 316, Bozeman, MT |
| 2— BRET HART
(2) 235, Calgary, Alberta | 5— THE MOUNTIE
(13) 232, Montreal, Quebec | 9— HACKSAW DUGGAN
(12) 280, Glens Falls, NY | 13— BIG BOSSMAN
(9) 277, Cobb County, GA |
| 3— RIC FLAIR
(10) 243, Minneapolis, MN | 6— RANDY SAVAGE
(-) 245, Sarasota, FL | 10— DAVEY BOY SMITH
(15) 245, Leeds, England | 14— SKINNER
(-) 235, Tampa, FL |
| | 7— IRWIN R. SCHYSTER
(7) 245, Syracuse, NY | 11— GREG VALENTINE
(-) 243, Seattle, WA | 15— RODDY PIPER
(14) 231, Glasgow, Scotland |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1— STING
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 4— BRIAN PILLMAN
Last month: unrated | 8— RON SIMMONS
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 12— TONY ANTHONY
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 5— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 9— SID JUSTICE
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 13— BIG BOSSMAN
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular |
| 3— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: unrated | 6— THE PATRIOT
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 10— VIRGIL
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 14— P.N. NEWS
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— BRET HART
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 11— EL GIGANTE
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 15— TOM PRICHARD
Last month: unrated |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 4— CACTUS JACK
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 8— THE MOUNTIE
Last month: unrated | 12— RICK RUDE
Last month: unrated |
| 2— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 5— JAKE ROBERTS
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 9— STEVE AUSTIN
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated | 13— TONY ATLAS
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated |
| 3— THE UNDERTAKER
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 6— ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 10— EDDIE GILBERT
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated | 14— BILLY JACK HAYNES
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— ERIC EMBRY
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated | 11— IRWIN R. SCHYSTER
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated | 15— SKINNER
Last month: unrated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1— THE LEGION OF DOOM
(2) WWF World tag team champions | 6— THE NASTY BOYS
(3) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title | 11— DOUG MASTERS & STEVE SAWYER
(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title |
| 2— THE ENFORCERS
(1) WCW World tag team champions | 7— THE FREEBIRDS
(7) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title | 12— THE BLACKHEARTS
(13) Tri-State tag team champions |
| 3— THE NATURAL DISASTERS
(5) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title | 8— THE YOUNG PISTOLS
(-) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title | 13— THE BUSHWHACKERS
(15) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title |
| 4— ROBERT FULLER & JEFF JARRETT
(11) USWA tag team champions | 9— THE BEVERLY BROTHERS
(12) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title | 14— JOHN TATUM & ROD PRICE
(-) No. 1 contenders: GWF tag title |
| 5— THE PATRIOTS
(9) WCW U.S. tag team champions | 10— CHRIS WALKER & STEVE SIMPSON
(6) Global tag team champions | 15— THE BILLION-DOLLAR BABIES
(-) IWCCW tag team champions |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended November 3, 1991

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS**
(July 26, 1991; from Billy Black & Joel Deaton; Chiba, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**
(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & TOSHIKI KAWADA**
(July 24, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Kanazawa, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: TAKAKO INOUE**
(April 29, 1991; from Kyoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO**
(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUZUKA MINAMI**
(October 4, 1991; from Akira Hokuto; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AJA KONG & BISON KIMURA**
(April 4, 1991; over Yumiko Hotta & Akira Hokuto for vacant title; Sendai, Japan)
- CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RAMBO**
(July 6, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Graz, Austria)
- CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION EUROPEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FRANZ SCHUHMAN & MILES ZRNO**
(August 3, 1990; from Dave Finlay & Marty Jones; Vienna, Austria)
- GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE LIGHTNING KID**
(September 15, 1991; from Chaz; Marietta, GA)
- GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: THE PATRIOT**
(August 23, 1991; for held up belt from Al Perez; Dallas, TX)
- GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE SIMPSON & CHRIS WALKER**
(July 27, 1991; tournament final over Scotty the Body & Rip Rogers; Dallas, TX)
- GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV CHAMPION: EDDIE GILBERT**
(October 4, 1991; tournament final over The Handsome Stranger; Dallas, TX)
- ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS**
(April 19, 1991; from Vic Steamboat; S. China, ME)
- IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON**
(by IWA officials' decision)
- IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE THUNDERFOOTS**
(July 14, 1991; from The Terminators; Sydney, Australia)
- IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE**
(July 14, 1991; from Jules Strongbow; Sydney, Australia)
- IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI**
(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)
- IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE TASMANIAN**
(June 5, 1991; from Ray Odyssey; Brooklyn, NY)
- IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BILLION-DOLLAR BABIES**
(June 1, 1991; from The Madison Brothers; Wolfeboro, NH)
- IWCCW WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**
(by IWCCW officials' decision)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: MONDO KLEEN**
(by IWF officials' decision)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEARTBREAKERS**
(July 24, 1991; tournament final over Al Hardiman & The Caribbean Kid; Winter Haven, FL)
- IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
(March 4, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Hiroshima, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
(March 21, 1991; from Hiroshi Hase & Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: AKIRA NOGAMI**
(August 8, 1991; from Jushin Liger; Tokyo, Japan)
- LPWA CHAMPION: LADY X**
(January 31, 1991; from Susan Sexton; Laughlin, NV)
- LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI**
(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)
- NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: BRUNO BEKKAR**
(December 12, 1987; from Johnny Garcia; Auckland, New Zealand)
- NEW ZEALAND JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOHNNY GARCIA**
(May 13, 1991; from War Head Wenham; Auckland, New Zealand)
- * **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: CRUSH**
(October 12, 1991; from Rip Oliver; Portland, OR)
- * **PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DON & RON HARRIS**
(October 12, 1991; Don Harris beats Grappler for tag belts; Portland, OR)
- PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & TASHIHI KAWADA**
(July 24, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Kanazawa, Japan)
- * **PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: TEJHO KHAN**
(October 14, 1991; from Charlie Norris; Fridley, MN)
- SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ**
(August 31, 1991; from Chris Chavis; Pembroke, NC)
- SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE STORM TROOPERS**
(August 22, 1991; from Bobby & Jackie Fulton; Albemarle, NC)
- TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR**
(January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)
- * **TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: BUDDY LANDELL**
(October 26, 1991; from J.T. Smith; Pine Hill, NJ)
- USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**
(September 2, 1991; from The Dragon Master; Memphis, TN)
- USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY**
(May 20, 1991; over Bill Dundee for held-up title; Memphis, TN)
- * **USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROBERT FULLER & JEFF JARRETT**
(October 12, 1991; from The Texas Outlaws; Memphis, TN)
- USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD**
(August 19, 1991; from Humongous; Memphis, TN)
- UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK**
(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)
- UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PERRO AGUAYO & EL GRAN HAMADA**
(June 13, 1991; from Brazo De Oro & Brazo De Plata; Tokyo, Japan)
- UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION TV CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS**
(June 9, 1991; tournament final over Bam Bam Bigelow; Palmetto, FL)
- UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN**
(June 9, 1991; over Candi Devine to determine first champion; Palmetto, FL)
- * **WCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRIAN PILLMAN**
(October 27, 1991; tournament final over Richard Morton; Chattanooga, TN)
- WCW TV CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN**
(June 3, 1991; from Bobby Eaton; Birmingham, AL)
- WCW U.S. CHAMPION: STING**
(August 25, 1991; tournament final over Steve Austin; Atlanta, GA)
- WCW U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE PATRIOTS**
(August 12, 1991; from The Freebirds; Gainesville, GA)
- WCW WORLD CHAMPION: LEX LUGER**
(July 14, 1991; over Barry Windham to fill title vacancy; Baltimore, MD)
- WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ARN ANDERSON & LARRY ZBYSZKO**
(September 6, 1991; tournament final over Rick Steiner & Bill Kazmaier; Augusta, GA)
- WINDY CITY HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RON POWERS**
(May 18, 1991; from Frank Nelson; Chicago, IL)
- WINDY CITY LADIES CHAMPION: LISA L.A. STAR**
(May 18, 1991; from Ondy Austin; Chicago, IL)
- WINDY CITY TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DREAM WARRIORS**
(July 20, 1991; from The Untouchables; Chicago, IL)
- WWA WORLD MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: TATSUSHI ONIDA**
(May 29, 1991; from Gregory Berichu; Tokyo, Japan)
- WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC III**
(July 13, 1991; from Rod Price; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Hurricane Castillo Jr. & Miguel Perez Jr.)
- WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA**
(May 25, 1991; from Brad Anderson; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: HURRICANE CASTILLO JR.**
(October 12, 1991; tournament final over Hector Guerrero; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: INVADER I & EL BRONCO I**
(by officials' decision)
- * **WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**
(November 2, 1991; for held-up title over Dino Bravo; Carolina, Puerto Rico)
- WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MONSTER RIPPER**
(September 21, 1991; from Candi Devine; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BRET HART**
(August 26, 1991; from Curt Hennig; New York, NY)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**
(March 24, 1991; from Sgt. Slaughter; Los Angeles, CA)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE LEGION OF DOOM**
(August 26, 1991; from The Nasty Boys; New York, NY)

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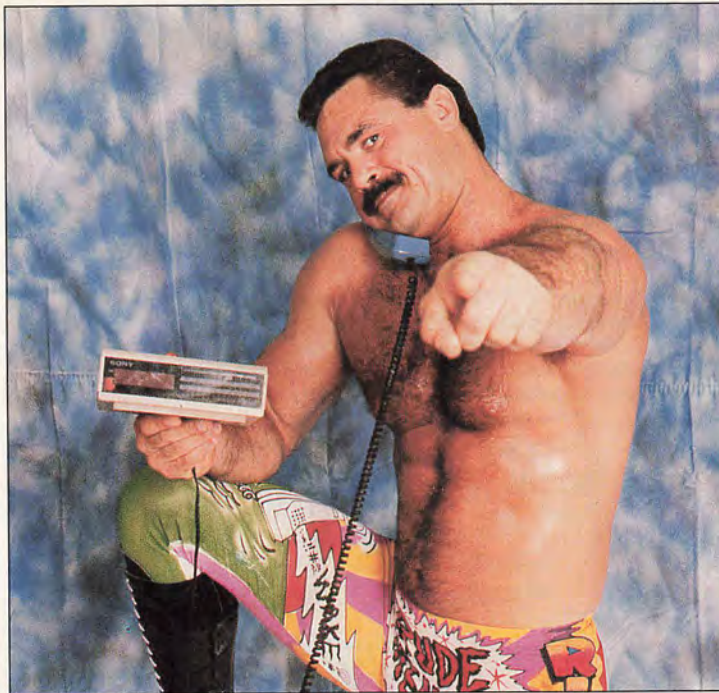
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